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PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN'S 10 APR SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11, 12, 13, 14 Apr 81

[11 Apr 81 p 3]

[text] The following is the English rendering address by President Ziaur Rahman on opening of the pre-Budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad on Friday morning.

B'smillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Mr. Speaker and honourable members.

I want to congratulate you all who have assembled here at this solemn and glorious session of the Jatiya Sangsad on this auspicious day today.

Before I make my speech, I want to recall with gratitude those martyrs for whose great sacrifice we are able to give our identity as the citizens of sovereign and idependdent [as published] Bangladesh in the world forum.

I recall those great personalities who had imbibed the people of the country with the ideals of Bangladeshi nationalism and independence at different time and stages.

I also recall with gratitude the names of those political leaders who had died after being elected to Parliament.

This is the sixth session of Parliament. The first session was held on April 2, 1979. So the present session is the symbol of the forward march of democratic process in the country. We can all be proud as we are marching forward with this process in spite of various adversities.

A responsible and active opposition party was essential for smooth functioning of Parliament. It is a matter of great happiness that we could fulfil that pre-requisite for full-flowering of democracy. It is now our great duty to avail the opportunity of the circumstance efficiently if we could build up a smooth Parliamentary working system and tradition through mutual respect and tolerance of others' opinion then it will help for a steady growth of real democratic process.

You are representing nine crore people of the country in the Parliament. Ninety per cent of them live in the rural areas. They are nourished and brought up in the simple and easy rural life. They are deprived of all facilities of urban

areas but they too have the same golden dream of future like that of the urban people. This large mass who had been the victims of exploitation and deceit for ages, who were oppressed want a better social environment and economic condition which will give freedom from the curses of an abject life.

We have come to know from the experiences of last few years that without peaceful revolution overall welfare of the people is not possible. Practically this revolution has already started in all spheres of our national life such as agriculture, industry education culture, health family planning and in administration.

The active participation and voluntary services of the people are the main pillars of this peaceful revolution the three phases of this revolution has already started. [as published] These are doubling the food production, eradication of illiteracy and family planning. The progress so far achieved in the canal digging programme on voluntary basis in the first phase of the revolution is encouraging.

The second phase of revolution was started with the launching of the eradication of illiteracy drive on the historic 21st February last year. The primary stage of the drive has achieved much success and this programme will continue.

Next comes the population control and family planning. The main crisis of the least developed of the Third World countries like ours was the population explosion. We have received encouraging response to check this population boom successfully at the initial stage. Efforts are being made to accelerate these activities.

People's collective and united efforts were the prerequisite to make the various stages of the peaceful revolution a success and that unity could be achieved only on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism.

Bangladeshi nationalism means that nationalism built upon the language, culture history and patriotism nursed for ages together by nine crore people living within a geographical boundary. The nationalism was again a separate and distinctive identity free from external influence and mastery. Finally this nationalism was given the ultimate shape during the bloody war of independence.

From political stand point the significance of Bangladeshi nationalism was the unity, solidarity and equal rights of the people living within the geographical boundary of the country. Its significance from economic angle was the preservation of the interests of the total population and creation of opportunities for improving their lot, we believe in the politics of production, politics of unity and politics of peace and creative endeavour.

Now I will put before you the measures we have taken during the last two three years, to revitalise the devastated economy of the country.

[12 Apr 81 p 6]

[Text] Following is the second part of the text of President Ziaur Raman's [as published] speech at the Jatiyo Sangsad on Friday:--

The gradual increase in the rate of growth of production and side by side [as published] maintaining stability in the country are the two main pillars [as published] of Government policy on national economy.

To attain economic growth rate, we have gradually increased expenditure on development and investment both in public and private sectors on the basis of resource mobilisation from external and domestic sources. Resource allocation has also been increased to various sectors directly or indirectly related to agriculture and industry, the basis of national economy.

In the context of national and international economy control of price situation was the main constituent and goal of economic stability but in a situation of global inflation and economic recession, it is not possible for Bangladesh like other developing countries to control the price situation alone by internal initiative.

In this unfavourable situation we have restrained the rate of increase in money supply on the one hand and on the other continued efforts for speedy increase in indigenous production in order to coordinate the total supply and demand in the national economy.

During the last eight months of the current fiscal year, our economic policy has attained some success during the current year. The rate of inflation has substantially decreased compared to last year to take this trend to the desired goal. We have to continue the twin policy of economic austerity and increase in production.

Aims and objectives of Second Five-Year Plan

The development problem of Bangladesh was primarily the problem solving the needs of village people. It would not be possible to implement a plan, however good it may be unless the problems of development at the lowest, village level were identified and if the necessary institution for implementation of development programmes was lacking. Such programmes would never be people-oriented.

In short the main objective of the Second Five-Year Plan is to ensure speedy supply of basic necessities of life aimed at appreciable development of living standard of the people, creation of more jobs through agriculture and industry for increasing people's purchasing-power, development of human resources, removal of illiteracy reduce population growth equitable distribution of income, wealth and opportunities to attain social justice and doubling food production for attaining self-sufficiency and surplus in food.

It is very difficult to arrange fund for this plan. Limitation of internal resources is a practical problem. Therefore, during planning, mobilisation of internal resources should have to be increased for both the public and the private sector.

When we embarked on the first year's work of the plan, right at that time certain changes were visible in the international economy which caused quite a lot of difficulties for us. I feel it necessary to say something about this.

The economic recession obtaining in the western world for the last one year had become more alarming as a result of decreasing production, inflation the worldwide diminishing trend of demands rising unemployment and oil prices. All these have led the developed countries to devote themselves to different expense control measures while, on the other hand, a new set of countries has been added to the list of aid seeking group.

Under such circumstances the Planning Commission is now engaged in a massive effort to allocate funds for the most immediate and indispensable [as published] sectors without changing the basic objectives of the plan and without affecting the principal production targets. [as published]

One of the prime objectives of our Second Five Year Plan is to reduce the dependence on foreign aid. To achieve that we must increase national savings. That is why under the Second Plan we are giving stress on projects which would quickly become productive. [as published] At the same time we want to complete the on going projects quickly, without affecting the main objectives of the plan, we have to curb expenditure and revise it. Thirdly we have to intensify the drive for mobilising internal resources.

Simultaneously with different measures for mobilising internal resources we are continuing our efforts to pool external resources in the international sphere. Bangladesh demand for foreign assistance is justified and legitimate, that is why even the World Bank has recommended increased external aid for Bangladesh. We also need to expand and increase our exports to earn more external resources. We have already taken a number of steps to increase the exports of food and different agricultural and industrial commodities whose benefits have already become visible.

The farmers [as published] had become helpless as a result of fragmentation of land-holding under the law of inheritance, illiteracy and lack of experience in using fertilisers, lack of knowledge about mechanised farming the share-cropping by the absentee landowners and the exploitation of the money-lenders. That is why despite the fertility of our land it was never properly utilised and farmers never derived any benefit out of it. We have been active in changing the situation from the very beginning and as a result of our sincere efforts we have received indications of some success in the agricultural field since last year. To carry forward the tempo of this success, we need to ensure at least an annual growth rate of six and half per cent in agriculture production on an average. And to achieve that, we have decided to invest over Taka five thousand crore during the five year period under the Second Plan during the five year period, we want to build up throughout the country an irrigation system under which the farmers timely sow and harvest their crops without caring for monsoon. [as published]

We had undertaken the programme for excavation and reexcavation of canals on voluntary self-help basis side by side with introducing mechanised irrigation system throughout the country towards achieving the objective of doubling food production. On the very first year, it was possible to bring an additional five and-a-half lakh acres of land under irrigation network and as a result of which, we made a record harvest the same season. This unprecedented success inspired the people to undertake the programme of excavation of nearly 2,800 miles of canals during 1980-81. This will bring an additional 16 lakh acres of land under the irrigation network and help drainage of water. If the current programme can be implemented successfully at least 16 lakh tons of additional foodgrains will be produced which will be a great and successful leap forward towards doubling food output. This will again result in employing millions of our people in agricultural production, marketing and export. Besides, the canals would provide scope for systematic fish cultivation which will meet our domestic requirements and help us export fish to earn foreign exchange worth several thousand crore Taka. We will also have to be active in planting more trees and salpings [as published] along roadsides, railway lines, riversides and embankments.

What we want is to develop a strong infrastructural base for a scientific agricultural system in a planned way through developing an effective irrigation network ensuring full utilisation of our water resources.

Agricultural system or the cropping pattern means development of healthy system for optimum utilisation of land and phasing of cultivation of crops in a systematic manner. We have no alternative to the modernisation of cultivation practices, and use of fertilizers is next only to the use of irrigation system in the modern cultivation practices.

We kept the prices of fertilizers low compared to any other country in the world by giving subsidies. The subsidy this year would amount to Tk. 117 crore. It should be noted that while the use of fertilizers was 4.5 lakh tons in 1975-76, it was 8.42 lakh tons in 1979-80. [as published] It is expected that the use of fertilizer will rise to about 19 lakh tons by 1985.

Although there was no wheat cultivation in the country in the past, 4.8 lakh tons of wheat were produced in an area of 6.5 lakh acres of land by the efforts of the people in 1978-79. It is expected that wheat production this year would be around 15 lakh tons. We expect to produce an additional 20 lakh tons of foodgrains this year from the level of the last year.

In this context, I would like to request all irrespective of party affiliation to keep agriculture and food above party and group political interest. Only this would bring benefit for all the nation and the country.

The other success in the field of agriculture is that about 16 lakh bales of cotton were produced in the country by experimental cultivation of modern varieties, although it never used to be cultivated in Bangladesh in the past. This cotton is now under use in different textile mills. All measures have been taken to ensure speedy increase of cotton cultivation.

In the field of jute, we are interested in producing more from less land. For this, jute production is being increased by cultivation of High Yielding Varieties.

It is now proved that quite a large area of Bangladesh is suitable for rubber cultivation. We have produced about 10 lakh pounds of rubber worth Taka 10 crore this year and it is expected that we would be self-sufficient in rubber cultivation within the next few years.

A massive Government plan has been taken in hand through food procurement drive "to develop a self-sufficient food security system" in the country. Already more than eight lakh tons of foodgrain have been procured which was unprecedented in the history of Bangladesh. The economic condition of the farmers have improved [as published] due to these purchases at a profitable price and the market price too has also been stabilised.

[13 Apr 81 p 3]

[Excerpt] Following is the third part of the text of President Ziaur Rahman's speech at Jatiya Sangsad on Friday:--

Steps have been taken to raise the national food security reserve to about 16 lakh tons and to distribute about 17 lakh tons of rice and wheat at minimum price to ensure security of minimum food-supplies to the people. For this the government have to bear a subsidy of about Taka 114 crore in the current fiscal year.

Food problems is an important national problem of ours. I appeal to you to come forward for extending active cooperation to implement various government steps including the internal procurement drive for attaining "food security" to face this problem.

Education, Science

Maximum importance has been given to primary education in the Second Five-Year Plan and 1.35 crore children would be given primary education by 1985. The implementation of this project would cost 378 crore Taka from the government exchequer.

Twentyseven [as published] lakh of hitherto illiterate persons received literacy under the Revolutionary programme of eradicating illiteracy from the country. Our target is to impart functional education to 5 crore illiterate persons within 1985.

We have taken some important steps for expansion of Islamic education. They include: Establishment of the Islamic University the Islamic Research and Education Centre and the establishment of the World Islamic Technical and Vocational Training Centre in Dacca. Realistic steps were taken for expansion of medical engineering and agriculture education. Proper steps are also being taken for expansion of facilities in the field of schools colleges and universities. We have also decided to establish community schools in the field of non-formal education.

Scientific and technological education are essential to solve manifold problems in the future national life and for the welfare of the masses. There are 50 research centres on different subjects in the country at present. The government has introduced a national policy on science and technology for integration of the activities of these research centres and to expedite the nuclear science and technology.

The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission has intensified its research and other development activities to improve the lot of the common man through peaceful utilisation of nuclear power. An organisation called Bangladesh space research and remote sensing centre has been established in the country recently.

A national expert committee has been formed for exploitation of the marine resources.

Extensive programmes have been taken under the Second-Five Year Plan to keep the population under control. The government is active to involve each and every citizen with the Family Planning Programme to achieve its target. Family Planning materials and service delivery have been arranged in all the hospitals side by side with medical facilities. The participation of the village governments in the population control programmes has been ensured.

Steps have been taken to keep at least one rural doctor in each village as a measure towards expansion of health care system. We have also plans to establish

medical colleges and hospitals with research facilities to promote homoeopath, unani and ayurvedic medical systems.

Smallpox has been eradicated from the country while cholera has been checked effectively. Steps are being taken to establish new factories and laboratories to manufacture necessary medicines and vaccines and inoculation for prevention of diseases.

[14 Apr 81 p 11]

[Text] Establishment of cooperative banks in the rural areas to meet the challenge of the ever-increasing demand of the cooperative members is one of the main steps towards cooperative organisation based rural development programmes. In the first phase works have already been undertaken to establish one thana cooperative bank in each thana of the country.

With the increase of population the number of landless peasants is increasing and this has created problems in the field of national economy. The government is active to face this problem.

Fisheries, Livestock

Fish is one of the main natural resources of Bangladesh. In the past fish resources were only exploited without paying attention to the development and preservation of fisheries. The present government has been giving importance towards development of fisheries and its augmentation and expansion. The annual production of fisheries has been fixed at 30 lakh tons during the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan.

One of the main-ways to achieve this target will be extensive introduction of pisciculture. A number of very big hatcheries are under construction for the production of a great quantity of fish fry through scientific methods by artificial insemination and distribute them among the pisciculturists.

Cultivation of fish fry has already started in some these projects. Besides setting up big hatcheries several small hatcheries will also be set up in the back and corner of the country for distribution of fish fry all over. Besides, a programme has also been taken up to net four lakh tons of sea fish by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan period instead of the present 1.25 lakh tons.

For development of poultry in the country, natural and artificial insemination programmes are there. Plan has been taken up to set up artificial insemination centres in all the police stations of the country during the Second Five-Year Plan.

Industry

In this modern age agriculture and industry as complementary to each other. [as published] That is why along with Agricultural Revolution, programme has also been taken up for bringing a revolution in the field of industry. For this three

shifts has been introduced [as published] instead of two in many industries and several industries have been working round the clock.

For speedy development of the industry, under the current industrial policy pursued by the government opportunities have been given to both public and private sector to move together so that both the sectors could grow evenly as complementary to each other. With the expansion of facilities for investment in the private sector a congenial atmosphere has been created for new investment and there have been favourable response from foreign investors.

Keeping in view the full utilisation of rural manpower for growth of industry priority is being given to the growth of cottage, medium and small industries. Effective steps have been taken up to extend necessary financial and technical assistance and collaboration in this field. To maintain the pace of our progress in the field of agriculture we have already attained success in production and manufacture of fertilizer, pump, engines and power tiller and soon we will be able to manufacture and assemble tractors.

With the commissioning of the 30,000 ton Ashuganj Urea Fertilizer Factory in June next we will be able to attain self-sufficiency in urea fertilizer and with the implementation of the three other new urea projects by the end of Second Five-Year Plan Bangladesh will become an exporting country of this important agricultural input. In industrial sector our another successful effort is Ta-118 crore worth Chittagong Dry Dock Project which is fast nearing completion. [as published]

In industry special priority has been given to utilisation of natural resources and in this field besides production of urea fertilizer from gas effective efforts have been taken for production of methanol, sponge iron and garbon black.

Jute

Jute is our main cash crop and main foreign exchange earner commodity. For uplift of the peasants and increasing the national income the importance of jute is immense. During the current year due to uninterrupted jute purchase programme by the government organisations and special attention to markets the peasants have fetched good price per-maund of jute. [as published] To make the exporters interested in purchasing jute export duty on low quality jute and cutting has been reduced.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation has overcome its past problems and has taken proper to get back its due share in the international market. We have been able to involve to jute through production of carpet, thread jute plastic and paper pulp.

Textiles

The government aims at attaining self sufficiency in textiles by the end of Second Five Year Plan. For attaining this goal the target [as published] per head production of cloth during the Second Five-Year Plan has been fixed at 12 yards. [as published] For this permission [as published] is being given for

setting up of spinning mills in the private sector side by side the public sector. Seventy five per cent of the total demand of the textiles of the country is produced by hand loom. That is why for improving the lot of weavers measures have been taken to distribute yarn direct to the weavers through the handloom board.

As a result of fair labour policy of the government the various welfare oriented legal right of the workers have been ensured. Facilities to the workers have increased manifold with the total implementation of recommendation of the wages commission for the workers. Healthy and peaceful atmosphere congenial to production have been created in the industrial zones following measures to settle disputes through negotiation among the workers.

As a result, the industrial production in the country has increased compared to what it has been before and the workers have been coming forward voluntarily to make the industrial revolution a success.

Natural Resources

The government have undertaken various measures for optimum utilisation of natural gas, increasing efforts for exploration of oil and exploitation of Jamalganj coal to reduce dependence on imported petroleum products. A project is going to be undertaken to carry gas to the western zones of the country exploitation of gas from four gas fields out of 10 in the country has started. Gas is being supplied [as published] to power stations, tea gardens fertilizer factories cement factories, [as published] a sizeable numbers of industrial units commercial organisations and households from these gas fields.

Presently work was going on to develop two more gas fields. Work for laying pipe line from Bakrabad Gas Field to Comilla Laksham Chittagong and Chandraghona industrial zone has started in the mean time. A fertilizer factory is being set up at Chittagong based on the supply of this gas. Gas has already reached from Habiganj to Ashuganj and work is progressing to lay pipe line from Sylhet to Sunanganj.

Gas has been discovered in three points out of five drilling projects during the last one year which can be considered as a greater success.

The exploration work for striking oil have been geared up at various parts of the country in the mean time. Experts are of the opinion that oil would be found in the country.

The first bitumen plant of Bangladesh having a production capacity of 70 thousand tons a year has gone into production. It will be possible to export about 30 thousand tons of bitumen produced from the plant after meeting the domestic requirement.

Appropriate measures are being taken to exploit other natural resources. The limestone deposits at Jaipurhat area is more than 10 crore tons. [as published] Work on the project for exploitation of this limestone has already started. We would be self sufficient in cement on completion of the project.

Hard rock has been discovered at Moddhapara in Dinajpur district. The deposits of rock there is enormous. [as published] The rock is of very high-quality and can be utilised as high standard building material.

According to primary estimate there are more than 70 crore tonnes of coal deposit at three thousand feet depth at Jamalganj. Experts are of the opinion that the deposit might be several times of the estimate.

Feasibility survey for exploitation of coal has been completed and soon measures would be taken to extract the coal.

[No further portions of President Rahman's speech have been published in Bangladeshi newspapers received by JPNS.]

CSO: 4220/7718

PRESIDENT ZIA TALKS TO PRESS ON RETURN FROM NEPAL

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman returned home satisfied at the outcome of his talks with Nepalese King Birendra during his three-day Kathmandu visit which he termed as "private and friendly".

Talking to newsmen at Kurmitola International Airport on his arrival from the capital of the Himalayan Kingdom President Zia hoped that the visit would help in expanding the horizon of bilateral relations between the two neighbours. He said that the possibility of further increasing the extent of cooperation between the two countries were discussed in detail. [as published] The Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Commission would meet soon and undertake programmes for greater cooperation in the field of trade and culture between the two countries the President disclosed.

During his second visit to Kathmandu the President discussed international and regional issues with the Nepalese monarch. On most of the issues they had identical views the President told newsmen. He said that they discussed the situation in the Middle East Europe South Asia Afghanistan and the Iraq-Iran war. Tensions were prevailing in these areas and he added the problems should be solved.

Asked whether he discussed the issue of the Ganges water with his host in Nepal the President said that the visit was not to discuss the issue. He said that he had no particular discussion with King Birendra on the water issue.

The President however asserted that the Ganges is an international river and its water should be used by its littoral states. He observed that there was a great possibility of augmenting the flow of the Ganges water. As the international river Ganges flows through Nepal India and Bangladesh the President said, the augmentation of its flow would help the three countries. Bangladesh he added had placed proposal to India and it was now under consideration.

In reply to a question President Zia said that foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries would meet next week in Colombo to discuss about the South Asian forum proposed by Bangladesh. He hoped that soon a ministerial level meeting would also be held to discuss about the forum. These discussions he believed would open the horizon of cooperation among the South [as published] Asian countries that includes Bangladesh Nepal India Sri Lanka Pakistan Bhutan and Maldives.

The President was accompanied by Begum Ziaur Rahman Deputy Leader of the House and Secretary General of BNP Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury Foreign Minister Professor Shamsul Huq and Consultant to the President Mr Daud Khan Majlish.

On his arrival at Kurmitola International Airport by a Bangladesh Biman's special aircraft President Ziaur Rahman was accorded a guard of honour. He was received at the airport by Vice-President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman Cabinet members chiefs of the three services heads of diplomatic missions BNP leaders and high ranking civil and military officials.

CSO: 4220/7726

PLANNING MINISTER: 5-YEAR PLAN SIZE TO BE REDUCED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Dr. Fasihuddin Mahtab, Minister of Planning, disclosed in the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the size of the Second Five-Year Plan would be reduced but it would not affect the projected growth rate. He also said the fundamental objectives and strategies of the Plan would remain undisturbed.

The Planning Minister replying to a question by Mr. Imajuddin Pramanik said that an objective analysis of the current ADP had indicated that there was a scope to reduce the expenditure by increasing the awareness of cost effectiveness and by reducing expenditure in the autonomous bodies and other agencies. He said the Government had already started curbing non-investment expenditure. He said the Government was also contemplating dropping some low priority projects from the Second Five-Year Plan. The change, he said, would not disturb the strategy of the Plan.

He said the flow of external assistance was not as anticipated due to economic depression in the donor countries.

Dr. Mahtab said the donor countries had acknowledged that Bangladesh required external assistance for its economic development.

He said that work on refixing the priorities was not over and as such it would be difficult to predict the exact amount of reduction. He said efforts are being made to increase mobilisation of domestic resources and reducing unproductive expenditures.

The Planning Minister, in reply to another question by Mr. Imajuddin Pramanik, said that only 27 per cent of the current ADP had been implemented up to February this year. The ADP for the current fiscal year was sized at Tk. 2,700. The ADP 1980-81 had 1,525 projects.

He said the ADP for 1980-81 has been revised and brought down to Tk. 2,369 crore from Tk. 2,700 crore. The amount of project aid has come down from Tk. 980 crore to Tk. 800 crore.

CSO: 4220/7735

PRESIDENT MAKES STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM AL-QUDS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman who returned home on Saturday after attending the Al-Quds meeting in Fez said that the Islamic world would unitedly undertake action programme to liberate Jerusalem and Palestine.

Talking to newsmen at Kurmitola Airport on arrival from the capital of Morocco President Ziaur Rahman who is a member of the three-member Al-Quds summit-level committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference hoped that countries all over the world would support the programmes of the Muslim countries to free Jerusalem. He announced that the Islamic world would soon take its decision on the long standing issue of Jerusalem. (as published)

President Ziaur Rahman who attended the Al-Quds meeting with Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan told newsmen that the two day Fez meeting was "very fruitful and constructive". He said that the conference had taken certain positive proposals on future course of action to be taken by the Islamic world for liberating Jerusalem.

President Ziaur Rahman who is also a Vice-Chairman of the OIC said that Bangladesh placed a draft of action programme for consideration in the Fez meeting. He was happy that Bangladesh proposals were given due consideration in the meeting.

At the airport President Ziaur Rahman was received by the Vice-President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman Cabinet members services chiefs heads of diplomatic mission BNP leaders and high-ranking civil and military officials. The President was accompanied by Foreign Minister Professor Shamsul Huq.

Foreign Minister Prof. Muhammad Shamsul Huq later said that the action programme put main thrust on creation of global public opinion in favour of freeing Jerusalem and Palestine from Israeli occupation.

For that purpose delegations at the levels of Heads of State and Foreign Ministers of the Jerusalem Committee will undertake visits to the countries of the EEC, Canada, Australia, Japan and also Non-aligned and African countries to confer with their counterparts, Prof. Huq added.

The proposals, he said, were drafted by a four-member committee set up for the purpose during the meeting which comprised Morocco, Bangladesh, Jordan and the

PLO. He added that the recommendations were formulated in the context of present global reality and were unanimously adopted.

Prof. Huq said that the main objectives of the meetings of the summit and ministerial level committees on Jerusalem were making out the ways for implementation of the decisions taken at the third Islamic summit held in Mecca and Taif for freeing Jerusalem and Palestine.

The Foreign Minister said that the efforts in favour of freeing Jerusalem and Palestine would also include holding seminars and meetings in different capitals for the purpose.

The meeting also stressed on using oil and other resources of the Islamic nations in a manner that it makes a "fruitful reaction" in favour of the cause, he said.

The Committee, he said also stressed on making the United States that its policy towards Israel was not at all congenial for peace in the region.

He said it is also recommended that initiative has to be taken to make it clear to the new Administration in the US that the atrocities being perpetrated by Israel were in gross violation of human rights.

The Foreign Minister said that President Zia, in his address during the Committee meeting underscored that forces were at work to divide the Islamic world. In that context, President Zia stressed the need for unity and solidarity within the ranks of the Islamic countries, he said.

President Zia in his address said that given such unity the Islamic world would emerge as a powerful force, the Foreign Minister added.

The Foreign Minister said that appeals would be sent by the Committee to the members of the Socialist International for exclusion of Israel from its membership.

The Foreign Minister said that the meeting suggested a substantial increase in the Al-Quds fund so that the money needed for all the measures and activities were available.

The meeting recommended to provide help to the evicted Palestinians for their rehabilitation and development.

It also recommended that the problem to be projected in all capitals in its proper perspective as was done recently through a seminar in Paris, he said.

The Foreign Minister said that the supreme sacrifice made by Irfan Ali, a Bangladeshi, for the cause of Palestine and Jerusalem earned the admiration of all.

The Foreign Minister said that President Zia will visit Iran and Iraq as the representative of the Islamic Conference's Committee to end the Gulf War, some time next month.

The following is the text of the statement by President Ziaur Rahman at the summit meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Fez:

Your Majesty, Excellency, It is indeed a matter of great personal satisfaction for me to be present here at this historical Joint Meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and its Summit Committee under the Chairmanship of Your Majesty. The valuable and dynamic leadership provided by Your Majesty as the Chairman of the Committee has rightly earned for you the respect and gratitude of the entire Islamic World. We all recall the monumental role played by Your Majesty when you convened the first Islamic Summit Conference in Morocco nearly 12 years ago following the burning of the Holy Masjid Al Aqsa. Since then Your Majesty has played a leading role in the struggle for the liberation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. This challenging and sacred task to which Your Majesty has dedicated yourself and with which we have the honour to be associated, enjoys the full support and cooperation of the Muslims throughout the World. The unanimous decision of the historic Mecca/Taif Summit to renew the mandate of the Jerusalem Committee and its Summit Committee under the Chairmanship of Your Majesty amply proves such a contention. Insallah, our united efforts will be blessed with success. Let us pray to God Almighty for guidance and strength so that we can fulfil this sacred task entrusted upon us.

We are meeting today under the shadow of a tragic development. The fratricidal conflict between Iran and Iraq has been continuing for the last seven months. Far too many innocent lives have already been lost and precious resources destroyed. Each day that the war continues is like a fresh wound inflicted on the entire Islamic World. Bangladesh has traditionally maintained close relations with her brotherly people in Iran and Iraq. Our ties with both the Iraqi and Iranian people go far into history. Our hearts bleed for our brothers in Iran and Iraq. The Islamic Good Offices Committee on Iran-Iraq with which Bangladesh has the privilege to be closely associated, has already made two trips to both the countries and we are hopeful that our efforts will succeed in bringing an end to this conflict. On this occasion let us appeal to our brothers in Iran and Iraq to cease hostilities immediately and to join hands with their Islamic brothers in the supreme struggle that unites us all in the struggle for the liberation of Jerusalem and for the realisation of inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. I hope, an earnest appeal to this effect will be sent out on behalf of this Committee.

The decision of the Jerusalem Committee in Casablanca in August 1980 to set up a three-member Summit Committee and its reaffirmation at the Third Islamic Summit Conference, reflects the importance of the task entrusted to us. One of the principal responsibilities assigned to the Summit Committee is to create a greater awareness (as published) in the West about Jerusalem and encourage the process of obtaining support for the decisions of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations in restoring Jerusalem under Arab Islamic sovereignty.

As we are all aware, the liberation of Jerusalem is inextricably linked to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. Bangladesh has consistently held the principled position that there can be no peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people restored to them including their right to establish an independent state of their own. An

essential part of this process is for the international community to accept the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

During my recent meetings with the Heads of Government of several Western and other states we discussed the subject of the Middle East. I am happy to note that the most of these countries now view the situation more positively. It is, however, necessary to sustain our efforts for creating a greater awareness about the genuineness of our cause.

Bangladesh, as a member of the Security Council, played an active role in the adoption of Security Council Resolution No. 478 which censured Israel for her enactment of the so-called "basic Law" which purportedly made Jerusalem her "eternal and undivided capital". A national Committee is being set up in Bangladesh to mobilise public opinion within the country in support of the very commendable measures adopted by the Jerusalem Committee and with a view to involving the whole country in the implementation of the comprehensive action programme on Jerusalem and Palestine adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference in Taif/Mecca.

I also had the opportunity to discuss the matter with His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea and we had a very useful exchange of views on the implementation of this action programme. I am confident that under Your Majesty's able and wise Chairmanship our deliberations today will enable us to determine a suitable course of action directed at discharging as effectively as possible the responsibilities entrusted to us. On behalf of my delegation I would like to propose the adoption of a declaration by this meeting which should be given the maximum possible publicity. We should take concrete actions for implementation of the decision adopted at Taif. My delegation, therefore, would like to place before this Committee for its consideration a 15-point action programme and a draft declaration.

Before I conclude I would like to stress that the success of the efforts of this Committee pre-eminently depends on our united efforts and, as such unity in the ranks of the Islamic countries that we have to represent is of paramount importance to our cause, namely the liberation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and restoration of the legitimate rights of our Palestinian brethren. It is, therefore, imperative that the decisive forces are contained immediately. Our cause is just and Insha-Allah, it is bound to triumph.

CSO: 4220/7740

BANGLADESH NEWSMEN INTERVIEW FOREIGN MINISTER SHAHI

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Kathmandu, April 20: Nepalese Foreign Minister K. B. Shahi has said, joint move of the co-riparian countries of the Ganges—Bangladesh, Nepal and India--will be a better approach for harnessing the water resources of the international river than any individual or bilateral effort, reports ENA.

He told two visiting Bangladesh journalists in joint interview at his Singha darbar office at Central Kathmandu on Sunday that it was King Birendra who first spoke of cooperation among the countries of the region in making the best use of water resources for the common benefit of the area.

In reply to question, he said Nepal agreed in principle to evolve an institutional frame work combining all the three countries for harnessing water resources. This, he said, will further cooperation among the three countries, but he added Bangladesh and India must come to proper understanding for the purpose. Nepal, he said must also know that its presence is needed in such institutional frame-work.

Asked since Nepal has been approached by Bangladesh and India separately, for joint efforts in this respects will Nepal call for tripartite arrangement for harnessing Ganges water, Mr. Shahi said, such approach could be "correct" but added "the two other countries must feel the necessity of our participation".

Regional Forum

The Nepalese Foreign Minister said, his country will do its best to give life to regional forum for which the Foreign Secretaries of the countries of the region are meeting in Colombo on April 21. He said the organisation which may come into being out of that meeting is likely to be a "major pillar" to ventilate the feelings [as published] of the countries of the region against interference and subjugation as it happened in cases of Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

He said Nepal thinks that at present tense situation is "coming closer to our next door." But the smaller countries of the region are not in position to face super-power rivalry or their proxies materially." [as published] The only way that "we can push ahead" is to project the feelings of the region to the world against "superpowers and their proxies."

In reply to question, Mr. Shahi said, he thinks the proposed South Asian organisation should at the beginning cover

In reply to question, Mr. Shahi said, he thinks the proposed South Asian organisation should at the beginning cover economic and social areas because, he said, the question of unanimity or at least consensus is very vital for forming such a forum. "If a framework grows for economic cooperation to start with, it will give enough opportunity to understand each other and probe our minds and thus ultimately in a gradual process we will be able to achieve our ends," he added.

River Route

Mr Shahi said an international river route between Bangladesh and Nepal through India is in conformity with the UN resolution that provided for giving a land-locked country an access to the sea, but such a proposal he said involves multifarious problems such as surveys maintaining river channel and so on. He does not think that any country will oppose that idea.

Nepal and Bangladesh he said can expand cooperation in the field of telecommunication and go for joint venture in jute processing. He said Nepal [as published] has jute but not the technology. As far as jute technology is concerned he said Bangladesh stands first among the countries of the sub-continent. Nepal he said can benefit by sharing the experience of Bangladesh in the field.

He said the next meeting of Bangladesh-Nepal joint economic commission to be held in Dacca sometime in June this year will help explore the opportunity for joint venture between the two countries in the field of jute processing.

Referring to efforts by some countries in the sub-continent to go nuclear Mr Shahi said "this is not a good gesture". Nuclearisation he said is not going to diffuse tension in the region.

Zone of Peace

Explaining the concept of "Nepal as zone of peace" as enunciated by King Birendra he said the idea was proposed without any fear or favour to any one. This he said was in conformity with "the values of" the UN Charter [as published] and the principles of non-alignment. Nepal he said stands for any peace proposal such as the concept of Indian ocean as a zone of peace Pakistani proposal for Asia as a "free zone" and the ASEAN concept of peace and neutrality. As such he said there should not be any misunderstanding about it in any quarter.

He however said the main pre-requisite for ensuring Nepal as a zone of peace is constant negotiation between the countries of the region to promote understanding and resolve their differences on issues of mutual or common concern.

CSO: 4220/7732

'TIMES' INTERVIEWS SPEAKER OF JATIYA SANGSAD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mirza Golam Hafiz Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad said, the Sangshad [as published] enjoys wider power than any other parliament elected so far in the country, earning for itself the confidence of the people in a short period of its formation.

In an interview with the BANGLADESH TIMES, the Speaker refuted the observation that the Parliament was a "rubber stamp". The Sangsad functioned well in all its five sessions within the constitutional provisions that provided powers which many parliaments of the region did not enjoy.

He noted that the President also ceded the power of veto to the Parliament which ensured that there would be no delay in having a bill turned into an act once it was passed by the House.

A house could not be a rubber stamp because it is controlled by a majority. If people send in a brute majority who naturally represent broader mass it's act [as published] could not called an act of rubber stamp.

Calling for good understanding between the Treasury Bench and Opposition for better working of the Sangsad the Speaker said tolerance respect for others' opinions and fair comments are among the basic conditions for development of parliamentary practice and good parliament.

He emphasised on good understanding between the benches because without it the parliament could not work. However wide the gap of differences there must be good understanding the Speaker said.

Opposition

In reply to a question if the Opposition had played its due role in furthering democracy and its practices and behaved responsibly, the Speaker said that they were yet to reach a standard because most of the Opposition members were new and were not conversant with the parliamentary practices.

He stressed the need for a responsible and effective Opposition who would not oppose only for the sake of opposition to have strong Parliament.

To a question if the Government behaved responsibly the Speaker said that the Treasury Bench showed enough flexibility to accommodate Opposition (as published) viewpoints if they were found to be constructive. At least in one case such accommodation was found.

Asked on the quality of Opposition participation; the Speaker said that the quality should have been higher. "Often the criticism was for the sake criticism" without being substantiated statistically. The objective of criticism is correction which could be possible through constructive criticism.

To make the democracy successful; the Speaker said, the Opposition must be powerful, responsible and effective. They must have well-defined political and economic programme so that if need arose they could provide alternative government.

But the Opposition members often did not know the Constitution; the parliamentary procedure or the convention. There were propensities for personal image building.

Replying to question on what was the qualitative difference between the first and second parliament the Speaker said he did not see the working of the first parliament even as a visitor. (as published) But if the character of the two parliaments were studied it would be seen the first parliament had only six Opposition members while the second had 80. Therefore, there were less critical (as published) study of the Government bills or resolutions in the first parliament compared to the second parliament. But the quality could have been improved.

Legislations

The Speaker said that it was not true that legislations were passed hurriedly. The normal procedure for passing law had been followed and therefore from the parliament's point of view they were not passed hurriedly.

Asked if the right to walk out were misused or overused the Speaker said that this was a war of protest against the policy of the Government or a resolution of the Government. He said this right should be used sparingly, judiciously, cautiously and in extreme cases to make it respectable. Referring to the frequent Opposition walkout in the past session of the Parliament, the Speaker said it lost respectability and often the people started questioning about their requirement. They criticised the walk out saying that they had sent their representatives to discuss their problems and not to be absent from the House on very small matters often to project personal image.

Great Prospect

Was the parliamentary system a future? In reply the Speaker thought it had great prospect in this country because the people had always supported democratic institutions and some sort of representation. So if the root of the democratic institution could be taken to the people by which he meant the strongly rooted political party, the people would protect the democratic institutions themselves.

As said some people in the past tried to destroy these institutions for which a continuity in parliamentary system could not be maintained.

People know that their salvation lay in the democratic institutions like the Parliament which therefore needs to be strengthened.

The Speaker called for showing respect to the Parliament by following the procedures, the people's representatives and the Speaker.

On walkouts against Speaker's ruling, he said it was unprecedented. Speaker is inviolable and could not be questioned. It was regrettable that there was propensity to take the issue outside the House whereas the procedure was to sort it out inside the House. Respect to the parliament could be better achieved through respect to the procedures.

CSO: 4220/7722

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD SEVEN-POINT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh MuktiJoddha Sangsad on Sunday called for observing a six-hour long 'Bangla Bandh' throughout the country on May 16 next in support of its seven point programme.

Announcing this at a Press conference at the central office of the Sangsad, Lt. Col. (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Chairman, Central Command Council, Bangladesh MuktiJoddha Sangsad said that the Sangsad would also observe "resistance week" from May 1 next.

In its seven-point programme, the sangsad declared the banning of Jamaat-i-Islam and all its front organisation and called upon the freedom fighters and people in general to resist the activities of these organisations.

7-Point Programme

The seven-point programme of the Sangsad include: [as published] (a) all identified Razakars-Al-Badars, including Prof. Golam Azam, both within and outside the administration must be "punished for treason"; (b) all "false and conspiratorial cases against the freedom fighters and patriots must be withdrawn without any condition; (c) transactions involving abandoned industries, and other properties must be stopped, (d) The corrupt elements in the administration must be dismissed and given exemplary [as published] punishment, (e) The existing economic policy should be replaced by a new economic policy to keep prices of commodities within the reach of the common man; (f) Sovereignty over Berubari, south Talpatty and the Ganges waters must be established and the people should be imparted with military training to resist any foreign aggression.

Direct Movement

Lt. Col. Nuruzzaman said that the freedom fighters were engaged in a "direct movement" against the Jamaat-i-Islam, Albadar-Razakars as they were the No. 1 enemy at the moment.

The Sangsad President said that the MuktiJoddha Sangsad along its struggle against the Razakars-Al-badars would foil any conspiracy against independence and sovereignty of the country.

Referring to an allegation that "we have indulged in politics with the freedom fighters," he said, "we are not doing any politics. Without activities and movement neither we will help somebody to remain in power nor we intend to establish opposition parties in power by joining them in movement and share power with them."

He alleged that certain quarters were trying to divert the movement of the freedom fighters in a different way by "sowing the seed of disunity among the freedom fighters." "It is the same people who helped the enemies of independence to survive and rehabilitate are again out to create disunity among the freedom fighters," he said.

Ruling Party

He said that the Muktiyoddha (as published) Sangsad would also resist the forces helping the communalism to spread.

The Sangsad President alleged that some leading persons in the "ruling party" were trying to foil the movement of the freedom fighters by organising a parallel organisation of Muktiyoddha Sangsad in an "illegal and undemocratic manner."

He said that these persons were engaged in foiling the movement at the instigation of "their international masters".

When asked to comment on the freedom fighters rally at Shilpakala Academy premises he said that Lt. General H. M. Ershad was the Chief Adviser to the Sangsad had told him (Col. Zaman) that neither he nor the President who was the chief patron of the Sangsad knew anything about it. [as published]

He said that the Sangsad would investigate into the matter and would expose the "conspirators".

Civil War

When asked about the [word illegible] of a civil war as mentioned elsewhere, Lt. Col. Nuruzzaman said that the programme of the Muktiyoddha (as published) Sangsad was aimed at resisting any outbreak of a civil war in the country.

Mr Naim Jahangir, Secretary-General who was also present at the press conference said that the Jamat-i-Islami (as published) was imparting armed training to its party cadres at Jhenidah (Jessore), Cox's Bazar and Natore.

When asked how Muktiyoddha Sangsad could declare the banning of a political party, the Sangsad Chairman said that the people had not allowed Jamat-i-Islami (as published) to hold any meeting at any place in the country during past one month. "The manifests that people had given their verdict against the Jamat. So we have banned it".

The resistance week include donation of blood by the freedom fighters at the blood banks on May 1, wayside meetings on May 2, distribution of leaflets, selling of Sangsad "seal" to the people on May 3, 5 and 6 and country-wide demonstration May 4, oath taking at Shahid Minar and public meetings on May 7.

CSO: 4220/7742

NEPAL NEWS AGENCY QUOTES ZIA ON GANGES TALKS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has said that Bangladesh proposal for the inclusion of Nepal in the Ganges water talks with India was nothing new, reports BSS.

In an interview with the Nepalese national news agency, Rashtriya Samachar Samity (RSS), on the concluding day of his three-day friendly visit to Nepal the President pointed out, "We have said this right from 1977 when we signed the agreement with India" and added that Nepal's participation was quite clear in the side letter to the agreement.

He stressed that since the Ganges was an international river Bangladesh stood for joint approach for utilisation of its water.

On bilateral relations, President Zia observed that joint Nepal-Bangladesh Economic Commission could be an instrument for the development of trade and joint ventures between the two countries. He said that Bangladesh was interested in setting up joint ventures in Nepal and indicated the possibility of third country participation in mutually beneficial joint ventures.

Speaking of the common heritage and cultural affinity between the two countries, the Bangladesh President said, "we wish to develop relations in the field of trade and joint ventures as well as in the domain of culture."

President Zia said he had discussions with King Birendra on bilateral matters and certain international issues concerning some of the tension areas such as the Middle East, Afghanistan, South-East Asia and Africa. So much tension existed in the world today, he noted.

On permanent corridor between the two countries, the President said that the arrangements for the movement of goods between Bangladesh and Nepal would be further expanded.

CSO: 4220/7731

WATER MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REVIEWS GANGES TALKS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] A spokesman of the Water Resource Ministry on Friday described the statement of Indian Irrigation Minister, Rao Birendra Singh in Lok Shava in which he blamed Bangladesh for noncooperation on Ganges talks as unfortunate.

Briefing newsmen at State Guest House, he said that the statement was "grossly tendentious and biased" which was bound to cast shadow on future talks.

The Bangladesh reaction came following the apparent breach to understanding by Indian delegation on return to New Delhi. The Indian delegation Leader, Rao Birendra had said at end of final review meeting in Dacca that both countries had reached. [as published] He made a surprising statement in Lok Shava on April 7 accusing Bangladesh of non-cooperation which led to inability to Joint River Commission in drawing recommendations on augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganges on long-term basis.

The spokesman detailed the events and steps of negotiations over past six years since the Prime Ministers of two countries issued statement in 1974 calling for mutually acceptable measures for augmenting the Ganges dry season flows. It had the force of a treaty he observed. These events conclusively prove that India was really responsible for JRC's inability to make the recommendations.

He said that any solution of the Ganges water issue had to be found within the 1977 Ganges water sharing agreement and the joint statement of the Prime Ministers.

He said no extraneous elements should be brought to make the task of finding a solution not only difficult but remote.

India Obstructed

BSS adds: The spokesman said that it was rather India which had obstructed the study of the long-term augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganges through Nepal's participation.

He added that both Bangladesh and India were committed to jointly approaching Nepal for the purpose but India obstructed at after considerable progress was made towards that direction in the name of bilateralism. [as published]

The spokesman reiterated that a solution to the problem must be found within the context of the 1977 Ganges waters agreement and not outside its context as had been suggested by the Indian Minister.

Describing the Indian Minister's suggestion it has to be seen if a solution could be found outside the 1977 agreement 'as bringing in 'extraneous elements' the spokesman said no extraneous element must be brought in which not only make the task of finding a solution difficult but remote'. [as published]

Nepal

Bangladesh had proposed association of Nepal as it was located along the international river [as published] and 70 per cent of the river's flows came from that country the spokesman said.

Meaningful participation of Nepal is essential for any solution to such a multi-lateral issue he said.

He said that both Bangladesh and India had agreed in the 1977 Ganges waters agreement to study the product in Nepal for augmentation of dry season flows of the Ganges.

Narrating the chronicle of events leading to progress towards that direction the spokesman said that in December 1978 India said that 'she is not opposed to Nepal's participation in finding solution to the problem.'

In May 1979, he added Bangladesh and India set up a joint committee for approaching Nepal for the purpose of its association in finding a solution.

Throughout the year 1979 he said a number of meetings were held...and the differences between Bangladesh and India were narrowed down on the question.

But at a meeting in January 1980 India reverted to bilateralism and as a result the progress achieved till then was upset, the spokesman said.

Nevertheless, the spokesman said Bangladesh believes that the talks must continue for an early solution to the problem as "the matter is so urgent that it brooks no delay. [as published]

He said that by the year 2000 A D the area in Bangladesh dependent on the Ganges would require one lakh 30 thousand cusecs of water for cultivation and other economic activities of pressing needs.

So he said the two governments would have to find a solution to the dry season augmentation of the Ganges flows he said.

He said that Indian proposal for digging canal linking Brahmaputra and Ganges had been proposed and rejected in 1975 as it was found to be technically "infeasible" and at the same time capable of doing incalculable damage to Bangladesh economically, socially and in many other ways.

He said that if India was interested in solution she would have proposed a link canal since the link canal was rejected in 1975.

But he said India not only made the same old rejected proposal which is infeasible, but also obstructed the study of the Bangladesh proposal for augmenting the rivers' dry season flows through Nepal's participation after considerable progress was made towards that direction.

He reiterated that monsoon's bounties of the Ganges could be stored either in India or Nepal for subsequent release for the mutual benefit and solution of the long term sharing.

He said that Bangladesh had twice made sacrifices [as published] in giving waters to India for the purpose of flushing Calcutta port in reaching the 1975 agreement and again in the 1977 agreement.

He said that Calcutta [as published] port never got the Ganges waters particularly during the dry period [as published] and never dependent on the river.

He said that no amount of fresh water withdrawal from the river can help the navigability of the port as he added the port could not be helped by even one to two million cusecs of water that came and went back to the Bay of Bengal.

But he said Bangladesh's dependence on the Ganges was total historically.

The spokesman said that Bangladesh also suffered due to the "abnormally low flow of the Ganges" during the dry season of 1960.

He said that the low flows were largely due to the "illegal withdrawals of the river's waters above Farakka Barrage by India. [as published]

He said that of the 446 million acre feet (MAF) of water in the Ganges only 317 MAF reached Farakka. He asked where the rest of the waters of the river go but for the withdrawals outside the purview of the 1977 Ganges waters agreements between the two neighbouring countries.

He said with the increasing withdrawals from the Ganges above Farakka these years the availability at Farakka is shrinking.

Asked whether Bangladesh had pointed out about the illegal withdrawals from the river upstream by India the spokesman said, "Yes. This has been pointed out to them a number of times".

He told a questioner that the Indian experts themselves had pointed out the futility of diverting the Ganges waters in improving the navigability of the Calcutta port.

CSO: 4220/7724

BANGLADESH DELEGATION REPORTS ON PARIS AID MEETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said in Dacca on Sunday that the total foreign aid commitment for fiscal 1981-82 would be around 2.3 billion dollars, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen on return Sunday morning after attending the last week's meeting of Bangladesh Aid Group in Paris, the Finance Minister said that the members of the Group under the chairmanship of the World Bank, had promised a total of 1.7 billion dollars. On the other hand, he added, it is our conservative estimate that we would get another 600 million dollars from non-group donor countries like the Arab countries and centrally planned countries.

Mr Rahman, who led an 11-member Bangladesh delegation to the meeting, observed that the most important aspect of the Group's meeting this year was that the member governments and agencies had made best of comments on the performance of our economy in the last two years and recognised that "Bangladesh was one the thresholds of development." [as published]

The Group also commended the Government's determination for initiating many "politically difficult" actions in the field of economic management, he added.

Food Aid

Out of the total commitment, the Finance Minister said that food aid worth 200 million dollars had been promised while the commodity and project aid commitments stood at 470 million dollars and 1.03 billion dollars respectively.

Bangladesh in its memorandum to the Group had asked for a total of 2.63 billion dollars of which 230 million dollars were sought in food aid, 900 million dollars in commodity aid and 1.5 billion dollars in project aid.

The Finance Minister said in reply to a question that United Kingdom, United States, France, Japan, European Economic Community, World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) had increased their commitment compared to the level of last two years in which aid commitments in the Group remained static at 1.3 billion dollars. "It was a much better meeting than last time," he added.

Impressive Growth

The Finance Minister said that both World Bank and IMF and donor countries as well had made best of their comments on the "impressive" seven per cent growth of the Gross Domestic Products, 15 per cent growth of the foodgrains production and fiscal and monetary management including efforts at increased domestic resources mobilisation by increasing savings and revenue. He said that performance of Bangladesh economy was rated "very good" compared to many other developing countries. Some donor countries indicated that they would increase their commitment of aid later, he added.

Mr Rahman said that the World Bank in its statement noted with "particular satisfaction" the appropriate Government policies and actions that resulted in increased food production. The Finance Minister said Bangladesh's efforts to deal with the continuing balance of payment problem and improvement of project implementation and execution capability was also highly appreciated. They also noted the constraints due to shortage of generation of counterpart funds with the slowing down of food imports, he said. The success in increased mobilisation of savings by inductive bank rates and reduction of inflation to 10 per cent this year was also highly commended, he added.

Priorities Endorsed

The Finance Minister said that the World Bank and the group has endorsed the country's Second Five-Year Plan (SFYP) priorities.

Mr Rahman said that the IMF in its statement had also commended the series of economic policies adopted by the Government during the last two years which, according to the IMF, had started yielding results. The policies include, enhancement of lending and deposit rates, quicker project and loan approval for private sector, reduction of inflation to 10 per cent, and increasing of domestic production.

Mr Rahman said both the World Bank and IMF had observed that Bangladesh's recent economic performance justified increased foreign economic assistance. The Finance Minister said they, however, pointed to the need for increased internal revenue generation and underlined the need for increasing profitability of public sector enterprises.

The Finance Minister said that the donor Governments and agencies had accepted the fiscal and monetary policies of the Government as right.

Mr Rahman expressed happiness over the outcome of the meeting and said that other donors would also follow the trend on the basis of IMF and World Bank observations. On the other hand, the Finance Minister said that because of the relatively stronger position of dollar in the international monetary exchange rates, the commitment would be higher by about 100 million dollars from the level of last year in which a pound sterling equalled around 2.5 dollars. This year, a pound sterling equals to 2.15 dollars, he added.

Other members of his delegation included, Mr A M A Muhith, Secretary, External Resources Division, Mr A K M Azizul Huq, Secretary, Internal Resources Division and Mr A Z M Obaidullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

Announcement

The following announcement was issued on April 15 at the end of the Bangladesh Aid Group meeting in Paris.

Twenty-four governments and institutions concerned with development assistance to Bangladesh met in Paris on April 14 and 15, 1981 under the chairmanship of the World Bank. Attending this eighth meeting of the Bangladesh Aid Group were representatives of the governments of Australia Belgium, Canada, Denmark Finland France, Germany Japan Netherlands, Norway Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. Seven international agencies participated in the meeting including the Asian Development Bank the Commission of the European Community, the International Fund For Agricultural Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme. The governments of Italy and Switzerland and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were represented at the meeting as observers. The Government of Bangladesh was represented by a delegation led by Saifur Rahman Minister of Finance.

The meeting first discussed Bangladesh's recent economic progress and noted with particular satisfaction the substantially increased foodgrain production during the past year which was due partly to good weather but largely to appropriate government policies and actions. The meeting further reviewed the efforts of the government to deal effectively with continuing budget and balance of payments problems. The donors recognized that as food aid would decrease in response to Bangladesh's increasing production of foodgrains, Government revenues from the sale of such food would drop. While outlays for the procurement of domestically-produced foodgrains would increase, increased commodity aid and local currency financing would, therefore, be required to compensate for the decline in food aid.

Highest Priority

The meeting then reviewed Bangladesh's medium-term development prospects as envisaged in the Second Five-Year Plan, which is in effect as of July 1, 1980. The Bangladesh delegation explained that the plan gives the highest priority to agricultural development with particular emphasis on further increases in foodgrain production. According to a specific implementation programme outlined in the government's medium-term foodgrain production plan, other sectors which were given usually high priority in the Second Five-Year Plan were population and family planning, education with special attention devoted to mass literacy and vocational training, and energy. The Aid Group noted that the development had already taken important measures to improve domestic resource mobilisation and project implementation capability and was informed by the Government that additional efforts in both areas would be undertaken.

Well Commended

Members of the Aid Group commended the Government of Bangladesh for the good economic performance during the last year and endorsed the sectoral priorities of the Second Five-Year Plan.

The donors regretted that the present international climate for foreign aid would make it difficult to mobilise sufficient additional resources to fully finance the ambitious targets of Bangladesh's Second Five-Year Plan and they therefore urged the Government to make optimal use of the limited resources available by concentrating on projects in the four priority sectors. The Group acknowledged that Bangladesh would continue to require large amounts of external assistance for the foreseeable [as published] future to support its development efforts with substantially increased assistance required in the form of commodity aid and local currency financing.

The Aid Group pledged new aid at a level above last year's and assured the Government that they would continue to provide support in the future to assist the development efforts of the Government and people of Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220/7729

MINISTER SPEAKS AT DACCA FREEDOM FIGHTERS RALLY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Captain (Retd) Abdul Halim Choudhury Minister for Local Government, Cooperatives and Rural Development on Sunday warned that some people posing as freedom fighters were trying to create anarchy in the country in the name of resisting anti-independence forces with foreign instigation.

Addressing a rally of the Freedom Fighters at Shilpakala Academy he urged them to maintain unity in their ranks and identify enemies of the days before and after independence to build-up resistance against them in order to preserve independence and sovereignty.

Presided over by Mr Amin Sarwar, commander, Dacca city unit command of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad, the meeting was addressed by Mr Mahfuzur Rahman convener of the Sangsad, Mr Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Senior Vice-Chairman, Mr Ibrahim Bin-Khalil Vice-Chairman, Mr Omar Ali Commander Munshiganj Unit, Mr Mosharaf Hossain, Commander Gazipur Unit, Mr Abdur Rahim Commander Dacca University Unit, Mr M. A. Gafur, Commander Ramna Thana Unit and Mr Shafiqul Huq Ansari Commander, Secretariat Unit.

A large number of freedom fighters attended the rally.

External Instigation

He said that he had expected unity of the freedom fighter under the banner of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad for which it was established. But, he said that some foreign powers were trying to create disorder within the country through some so-called freedom fighters who were in control of the Sangsad, in the name of holding "people's court" against the Razakars, Al-Badrs and anti-independence forces.

He said that when there were government, courts and parliament functioning in the country what need arose for the "people's court". He said that the directive in this regard came from external sources and urged the freedom fighters to realise it.

Captain (Retd) Abdul Halim Choudhury told the rally that "we have got information that the Central Command Council of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their meeting on

Saturday had received the proposal for forming an all-party sangram parishad with Awami League, CPB of Moni Singh and NAP (Mazafar). [as published] "Are they not also the enemies of independence", the minister asked.

Bangla Bandh

Referring to the programme of 'Bangla Bandh' given by what he termed so-called freedom fighters the Minister said that it was the language of a foreign country and wanted to know why they were speaking in such terms.

He declared that those who never recognised the independence of Bangladesh had no right to carry out their politics in this land.

One Crore Taka

He said while Awami League Government opposed the freedom fighters by creating "Mujib Bahini, "Lal Bahini", and "Rakhi Bahin" and many others means between 1972 and 1975. The Government of President Ziaur Rahman has taken initiative to restore their prestige and to rehabilitate the freedom fighters.

He wanted to know from the Sangsad led Col. (Retd) Nuruzzaman and Mr Nayeem Jahangir as to what they did with Taka one crore given to them by the President to rehabilitation of freedom fighters.

Captain (Retd) Abdul Halim Choudhury further said that the leadership of certain political party was staying abroad. They want to create disorder prior to the arrival of the leadership in the country.

The Minister said that if there has to be any programme to identify the enemies of independence the list should include those who opposed it before the independence till 1975. But no one should be allowed to terrorise the common people in the name of doing so.

He further said that collaborators shall always remain collaborators, they could never defend the independence and sovereignty.

Hijackers, Dacoits

Referring to the past treatment of the freedom fighters during Awami League regime he said that they wanted to make the freedom fighters dacoits, hijackers and criminals.

He said that it was President Ziaur Rahman who established the honour of the freedom fighters and was trying to rehabilitate them. He assured the freedom fighters that he would discuss with the President about their demands.

Captain (Rtd) Halim Choudhury said the country was passing through various conspiracies. But the conspirators opposed to the independence would not be allowed to raise their heads.

He declared that the freedom fighters would resist those who wanted to interfere with the independence. He further said that "if the foreigners want to create

disorder in the country using the so called freedom fighters he would take up arms again at the age of 60".

Mahfuzur Rahman

Mr Mahfuzur Rahman urged Lt. General Ershad, Chief Adviser to the Muktiyoddha Sangsad to disband the Central Command Council headed by Lt. Col. (Rtd) Kazi Nuruzzaman. He said that he (Nuruzzaman) was elected as the chairman with the support of fake councillors.

Mr Mahfuzur Rahman warned those who usurped the leadership of the Central Command Council through "backdoor" would be "ousted. [as published]

Conspirators

Mr Mahfuzur Rahman accused certain people in the Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad headed by Lt. Col. (Rtd) Kazi Nuruzzaman as "conspirators who in order to save their skins from their involvement in the June 17 conspiracy trial had let loose the freedom fighters against the collaborators".

Mr Rahman said that those who want to put the Razakars-Al Badrs on trial at "people's courts" should remember how it could happen when there were parliament, government and courts in the country functioning and the Collaborators Act was still in force." [as published]

He urged the Government to hold trial of Professor Golam Azam under Collaborators Act. He further said that government should, if necessary, form a special tribunal to try him.

Referring to the recent declaration [as published] by the acting Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami that Bangladesh had no concept during its war of independence, he said, "we can not allow those who do not recognise the existence of Bangladesh to carry on their politics".

Mr Mahfuzur Rahman further said that the freedom fighters must take a correct course of action and should remain prepared to shed their blood again to defend the independence and sovereignty.

He declared those who want to sell the country, even if they were in power, would not be spared by the freedom fighters.

He demanded rehabilitation of the freedom fighters and relaxing the age bar for government job for the freedom fighters.

Mr Mahfuzur Rahman urged President Ziaur Rahman to avoid the collaborators and Razakars and rely on the freedom fighters who he declared would give blood to defend the independence and sovereignty.

Sadeque Hossain

Mr Sadeque Hossain Khoka urged President Ziaur Rahman to "get rid of those who betrayed independence and participated in killings from the government" and repose trust on those who responded to his call for the war of independence.

Omar Ali

Mr Omar Ali referring to his illegal suspension by the Central Command Council of Muktiyoddha Sangsad said that when he challenged the order in a court of law the Chairman and General Secretary had to pay fine of Taka 50. He accused them of being responsible with the killing of Rafiq, a freedom fighter at the last council. He said that non-freedom fighters were used to kill him with finances from Professor Golam Azam.

CSO: 4220/7742

BNP FOR OVERALL USE OF BENGALI BY FEBRUARY 1982

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] The National Standing Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in an emergency meeting held on Wednesday with party Chairman President Ziaur Rahman in the chair adopted a number of decisions to introduce Bangla at all levels of national and state activities for the greater national interest and for the fulfilment of the aspirations of the people.

The meeting decided to ensure use of Bangla in all ministries and government agencies semi-government and autonomous bodies immediately and Bangla must be in use at all levels except in case of foreign correspondence by February 21 1982.

In another decision the meeting requested the lower courts to take steps to ensure use of Bangla for arguments, maintaining files and writing the judgements by February 21, 1982. BNP standing committee also requested the honourable High Court and Supreme Court to conduct business in Bangla gradually.

The meeting appealed to all sections of people particularly the students teachers journalists and intellectuals to help Government efforts in effective use of Bangla. BNP standing committee also suggested compulsory writing of signboards in Bangla by all commercial houses.

The meeting urged the Government to take steps for removing all obstacles in introducing Bangla at all levels and as medium of education and also to remove the complexities regarding typewriters teleprinters and printing.

CGO: 4220/7735

BANGLADESH ISLAMIC PARTY HOLDS NATIONAL PARLEY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Apr 81 p 8

[Text] Bangladesh Islamic Party wants united movement for establishing multi-party parliamentary democracy and for safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the country.

Addressing the first national conference of the party and a public meeting organised in this connection at Baitul Mukarram Square Mr Farmanullah Khan, Convener of the party said this on Sunday.

He said that the country was now going through serious economic crises. The entire economy was dependent on foreign aid. Inflation and consequent rise in prices of essentials had put the life of the people under stress.

Mr Farmanullah Khan alleged that the Government was helping to divide the nation by raising the question as to who were freedom fighters and who were not at a time when national unity was needed for safeguarding the sovereignty of the country.

He said that the people were equally alarmed by fresh conspiracies of BKSALites to stage a comeback. International conspiracies were also on for bringing about "an Afghan style revolution" by taking advantage of the present situation, he said.

He demanded stern measures to curb inflation, and establishment of small mills and factories under private ownership for accelerating industrial revolution. Mr Farmanullah Khan called for workers participation in the management of the nationalised industries by freeing those from heavy bureaucratic control.

Earlier, addressing the inaugural function of the party national conference as a guest Moulana Abdus Sobhan, Secretary General, Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League called for unity of like-minded political forces for safeguarding independence and sovereignty and for building up alternative leadership.

Mr. A. S. M. Mufakkhar, senior advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court was the chief guest at the inaugural function which was also addressed by Messrs Ainuddin, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Muslim League (Siddiky) and Nurul Huq Chowdhury, Convener, Gonotantrik Karmi Shibir among others.

Mr. Saadul Haq Chowdhury called for united movement for resisting "Indo-Soviet conspiracies against the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh."

He said that no ideology, be it Islamic, democratic or anything else could be established if the independence and sovereignty of the country was not secured.

CSO: 4220/7742

FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof Muhammad Shamsul Huq on Tuesday morning reiterated Bangladesh's complete solidarity with the fraternal Palestinian people in their just struggle to set up a homeland in their own land, reports BSS.

The Foreign Minister was speaking briefly at the Namaj-e-Janaza of Irfan Ali, a Bangladeshi national who alongwith five Palestinians laid down his life on April 10 fighting against Israeli aggression in Southern Lebanon.

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Deputy Prime Minister Mr S A Bari AT, Religious Affairs Minister Mr Abdur Rahman, Acting Representatives of PLO Mission in Dacca, Charge d'Affaires of the Iranian Embassy, Major Abu Aoudeh of PLO who accompanied the body of martyred Irfan Ali from Beirut, and political and student leaders were among others attended the Namaj-e-Janaza.

The Foreign Minister said, "we feel proud about the martyrdom of Irfan Ali" and at the same time he expressed sympathies with the members of the bereaved family of the valiant son of Bangladesh who hailed from the village Batidi under Sadar Thana of Sylhet.

Prof Huq said that Irfan Ali will remain immortal and will be remembered for laying down his life for the great cause.

Bangladesh, he said, always expressed its solidarity with the cause of the Palestinians and Arabs which the country will continue to do until final victory and restoration of all territories under illegal Israeli occupation to Arab and Palestinian sovereignty.

Bangladesh, he declared, is ever ready to make any effort for the great cause of the Palestinian and Arab brethren, [as published] along with other Muslim countries.

Prof Huq earlier received the body of Irfan Ali at Baitul Mukarram from the Acting Representative of the PLO. The body was flown earlier in the morning from Beirut.

The Foreign Minister said that inclusion of Bangladesh in the summit level Ministerial level committees for the Arab and Palestine cause of the organisation

of Islamic Conference was a matter of satisfaction as it reflected the trust and confidence in the Muslim world. [as published]

He said that the Arab and the Palestinian cause was bound to triumph because "Bangladesh believed that all right causes will always attain victory ultimately."

The Foreign Minister said that Irfan Ali is among those Bangladeshis who gave their lives for the cause of Palestine.

Major Abu Aoudeh speaking briefly said that the martyrs are not dead but one would again meet them in paradise as they had laid down their lives for the cause of Islam.

He said, "we express our deep gratitude to the government of Bangladesh, President Ziaur Rahman, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister for the unequivocal support to our cause, on behalf of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the people of Palestine and Southern Lebanon."

Major Aoudeh said that Irfan Ali achieved martyrdom while fighting by the side of their Lebanese and Palestinian brethren for freeing the first Kabla of Islam, Baitul Mukaddas.

The Zionists imperialists, he said are shelling in the Southern Lebanon.

He said, Abul Quasem and Naseeruddin of Bangladesh had laid down their lives earlier and added this once again demonstrated Bangladesh's complete solidarity with the great cause.

Major Aoudeh declared, "our struggle will continue until Palestine is freed and the final Palestinian revolution."

The body of Irfan Ali was flown to his village home in Sylhet. A Foreign Office official and Major Aoudeh were among those who accompanied the body.

The body of Irfan Ali was brought in a motorcade from the airport.

Earlier at the airport an Additional Foreign Secretary received the body on behalf of the government.

NAP chief Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, MP, and Mr Ali Aksad, Secretary General of Bangladesh Peace Council were also present at the airport to receive the body of Irfan Ali.

CSO: 4220/7734

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS ON NEW MINISTERS GIVEN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Apr 81 p 3

[Text] Mr. Jamiruddin Sircar MP was sworn in on Monday as the Minister of State for Public Works and Urban Development, says a PID handout on Monday.

Born on December 1, 1931 at Nayabari Bhajanpur of Tetulia PS of Dinajpur district Mr. Jamiruddin Sircar obtained his M.A. and LLB degrees from the University of Dacca.

He was enrolled as a lawyer in 1960 and practised law at Dacca and Dinajpur Bar. In 1961 he left for England for higher education in law and got himself admitted to the Lincoln's Inn.

In college, he was a member of the College Union and Secretary of the Debating Society and while a student of LLB he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Dacca University Law Association. He was also General Secretary and Vice-President of Dinajpur Association at Dacca. He was also the Vice-President of the then Iqbal Hall Union.

While a student at the Lincoln's Inn, he was the President of the Inns of Court Pakistan Society; the President of International Democratic Students Association a member of United Nations Students Association the President of the Committee of the Restoration of Civil Liberties; a member of the Committee of the Restoration of Democracy a member of the Committee of the Progressive Students known as 'Group' which believed in the Independence of the then East Pakistan and established East Pakistan House in London and the President of the AFRO-EURO-ASIA Students Association.

On return, he joined Dacca High Court and become Secretary of International Democratic Lawyers Association.

He joined politics at the call of President Ziaur Rahman and became member of the BNP Central Convening Committee, National Councillor and Chairman, Conduct and Reconciliation Committee. He was elected member of Parliament and became Chairman of the Legal Committee, member of the subject council on Constitution and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Sircar was a member of Bangladesh delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Sessions in 1977 1979 and 1980.

He is one of the members of the Board of Governors of the Council of World Affairs and one of the twelve members of the BNP Standing Committee which is the supreme body of the party.

He is married and has three children.

Abdus Salam Talukder

Mr. Md. Abdus Salam Talukder was sworn in on Monday as State Minister Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs. He will work directly under the Vice-President who is in charge of that Ministry says a PID handout on Monday.

Born on November 4, 1936 at Sarishabari in Jamalpur district Mr. Talukder obtained his M A degree with honours in Political Science from the University of Dacca in 1959. He obtained his degree of Barrister of Law from Lincolns Inn, London in 1968 and joined Dacca High Court as an Advocate in 1970.

The youngest son of Al-haj Reazuddin Talukder ex-member of the then East Pakistan Assembly and Mymensingh District Board Mr. Salam Talukder was athletic Secretary of Fazlul Haq Muslim Hall Union in 1954 and interim Vice-President in 1958.

While studying in London Mr. Talukder was elected the President of the then Pakistan Students Federation in Great Britain in 1964. He suffered imprisonment during 92-A in 1954-55.

He joined politics in 1976 and was a member of the Central Committee of Democratic League. He joined BNP in 1978 and was a member of the Central Committee.

He was elected member of Jatiyo Sangsad in February 1979 from Jamalpur 4 constituency.

Syed Mohibul Hasan

Syed Mohibul Hasan, MP was sworn in on Monday as the Minister of State in charge of Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare, says a PID handout on Monday.

Born in 1925 in Sylhet, Syed Mohibul Hasan obtained his graduation from Habigonj College in 1944. He is the youngest son of Late Alhaj Syed Jaidul Hasan, a direct descendant of Hazrat Syed Nasiruddin Sepahi Salar who accompanied Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA).

Mr. Hasan started his career as the Secretary of the Habigonj Subdivisional Muslim Students Association in 1939 and joined Muslim League in 1944. He took active part in Sylhet referendum. In 1955 he got LLB degree, joined Habiganj Bar and continued till 1962--when he was elected member to the then East Pakistan Assembly.

In the then East Pakistan Assembly he was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and also became member of many of the sub-committees.

As a social worker he has to his credit three education trusts 2 at Habigonj and one at Dacca. He has significant contribution to many social and religious institutions in Dacca and Sylhet.

Mr. Hasan was elected to the Parliament as an independent candidate from Habigonj in the last general elections. Later, he joined Bangladesh Nationalist Party and became a member of the party standing committee.

CSO: 4220/7719

FOREIGN MINISTER NOTES TRADE, DIPLOMATIC TIES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Apr 81 p 12

[Text] Bangladesh has no diplomatic relations with 47 countries and no trade agreement with 97 states Foreign Minister Prof Muhammed Shamsul Huq told the Jatiya Sangsad reports ENA.

Replying to a written question by Mr. Farhad Ahmed Kanchan (BNP) he said one hundred and 34 countries have recognised Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister gave a list of the countries with whom Bangladesh has no diplomatic [as published] relations. These are: Congo Cyprus West Samoa Central African Republic Malabi Swabiland Lesotho Botswana Guyana Gabon Malagas Republic Laos Liberia Venezualia [as published] Columbia El Salvador Haiti Chili Equador Tanzani Dominican Republic [as published] Guatamala Democratic Republic of Yemen Peru Bolivia Uganda Uruguay Panama Upper Volta Paraguaya Honduras [as published] Nicaragua Ethiopia Zaire Syria Sudan Niger Cameroon, Dahmi, Arab Republic of Yemen Nigeria Congo (Brazavil) Guinea Bissau Cambodia, Tago and Ireland.

The countries with whom Bangladesh has no trade agreement are: Mongolia Barbados Congo Cyprus Australia New Zealand Fiji Denmark Finland Sweden Norway West Germany U.K. Iceland Austria West Samoa Cuba Japan Ireland Netherlands Luxemburg Italy Canada France Singapore Central African Republic Mauritius Cambia Malabi Swaziland Greece Switzerland Lesotho Botswana Jamica Guvanra U S A Gabon democratic republic of Maldip Malagasi Serraleon Laos Liberia Costa Rica Venezualla [as published] Colombia Mexico Spain El-Salvador Argentina Haiti Chili Equador Zambia Tanzania Dominican Republic Malta Guatemala Democratic Republic of Yemen Peru Bolivia Uregua [as published] Panama, Upper Volta Paragua Honduras [as published] Nicaragua Ethiopia Ghana, Lebanon Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania Ivory Cost [as published] Zaire Syria Niger Camaroon [as published] Guinea Jordan Dahomi Arab republic of Yemen Nigeria Quatar U.A.E. Congo (Brazavil) Bahrain Kenya Trinidad and Tobogo [as published] Guinea Bissau Kampucia Togo Oman Portugal Somalia Narau and Saudi Arabia.

COMMERCE OFFICIAL ON PROSPECTS FOR MIDEAST TRADE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Middle East is full of potentials for exportable commodities from countries like Bangladesh Minister of State for Commerce Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky said in Dacca on Wednesday reports BSS.

He said Bangladeshi products had good markets in the Middle East particularly in the Gulf countries, where the market is still wide opened.

Talking to newsmen at his office Mr. Siddiky said it was a pity that such a vast, lucrative and friendly market had remained under exploited for so long.

The State Minister returned to Dacca early Wednesday from Abu Dhabi after inaugurating the Bangladesh export fair in Dubai first such move in the Middle East.

Mr. Siddiky said besides a few stray initiatives of some individuals no organised efforts had been undertaken to boost Bangladesh exports in the Middle East and Gulf countries. He said it was the time that both public and private sectors take hard drive to exploit those markets which have vast possibilities. He noted that there was enough goodwill for Bangladesh and its products in the UAE and the Gulf countries. He said "if we could properly utilise all the positive factors our exports to these countries would increase dramatically."

Stating that shipping was one of the impediments to boost export trade with Middle Eastern countries. [as published] The State Minister said "we are seriously thinking of running at least one caro ship and one cargo flight every month, besides the normal exports through the two media. [as published]

Mr. Siddiky said since Bangladesh products were of competitive price and enjoyed good reputation throughout the Middle East, "We should aim at earning at least one billion dollars by exporting foodstuff to those countries".

At present that region imports foodstuffs amounting to 19 billion dollars from various parts of the world. Banglashe's [as published] export earnings from the Gulf countries during last year was Taka two crore.

The State Minister hoped the export earnings from these countries would rise to Taka 50 crores during the coming fiscal year.

The State Minister said concerted move should be undertaken to make our presence felt in the Middle East. He said we must overcome all obstacles as soon as possible to boost our exports to Middle East". [as published]

Bangladesh will organise four single country export fairs in four countries during the next fiscal year Minister of State for Commerce Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiky said.

Next year's fairs will take place in Kuwait Indonesia U.S. and either in Australia or Canada he said.

The State Minister for Commerce said Export Promotion Bureau would undertake solo exposition of Bangladeshi products in different Middle Eastern countries in phases. Besides Dubai Bangladesh had organised fairs in Malaysia and Singapore during the current year.

Mr. Siddiky who held talks with UAE high officials and business representatives termed his discussions as "very fruitful" and added "I believe there is a very good market for our products in UAE".

Referring to his talks with the rulers of Dubai and Abu Dhabi the State Minister said they showed great interests to increase trade with us.

A delegation comprising high officials and businessmen from UAE will visit Bangladesh this year the State Minister said.

A Bangladesh businessmen delegation will leave Dacca on April 25 for the UAE to explore further possibilities of trade with that country.

CSO: 4220/7735

BUSINESSMAN SCORES GOVERNMENT POLICY ON PRIVATE SECTOR

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7, 8 Apr 81

[Speech by Mr Mushfeq-U-Saleheen, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dacca, at its 76th annual general meeting]

[7 Apr 81 p 5]

[Text] Last year, on the occasion of the Chamber's 75th Annual General Meeting, my predecessor mentioned about various problems affecting the world economy and that of our own country. Standing on the threshold of the 80s, we find that the problems in the international field as well as in our own country have not only aggravated but have taken very ominous turns.

Renewed protectionist policies by a quite few developed countries, further increase in oil prices, war in the Middle East, the latter having shifted the attention of major industrial countries away from the urgent North-South dialogues, have exposed the third world to an unprecedented precarious situation. The Brandt Commission's recommendations, which gave the third world a programme for survival, are almost in the oblivion now. The 11th special session of the United Nations General Assembly, while endorsing the Brandt Commission blueprint, failed to agree to the basic guidelines for global negotiations on North-South economic issues. These developments will have very adverse effect on the development efforts of developing countries, including ours. While we shall join other third world countries to continue to focus the world attention on the need for a global action programme to mitigate the gloomy situation facing the developing countries, we as a free nation, must look upon the problems as challenges which need to be tackled largely by ourselves. In fact, these problems should impart new vigour to our development efforts.

Indeed, it has been established that, given conducive policies and peaceful atmosphere, our economy can tackle such challenges and do much better than what is generally thought of. We have been remarkably successful in our efforts to reduce import of foodgrains by increasing production in the agricultural sector. The average rate of industrial growth has also been quite impressive. We no doubt have very serious problems of payments, but, if it looks magnified, it is only because we have not been able to gear up our economy, particularly the industrial sector, at the desired pace and manner. Our problem of balance of payments is largely due to the structural imbalance in our economy. It can be tackled only through a process of structural change. Much of our success, in

this regard, will depend on what happens in the manufacturing sector. It is for this reason that the uncertainties and policy confusions should be cleared so as to further gear up the industrial activities. The present Government deserves compliments from all quarters for bringing the economy a long way from the chaos which prevailed prior to 1976, but it ought to be pointed out that, notwithstanding such an achievement, the Government policy towards the basic issues relating to the industrial sector continues to remain haphazard and adhoc. Our industrial sector would have had the added spurt (i) if the Government had committed itself to a definite policy with regard to Public and Private Sectors and ensured that such policy was being taken to its logical conclusions and (ii) if it had not looked at investment issues on purely domestic perception.

The Government has no doubt announced a policy stating its intention to develop mixed economy in the country but there are not only serious contradictions in this policy, it is not being implemented in true spirit. In the name of mixed economy, the viable productive sectors continue to be kept reserved for the Public Sector, and the Private Sector has been reduced and restricted to peripheral activities. Besides, the basic principles, on the basis of which the goals and activities of Public Sector are to be determined, are yet to be announced. As it happens in such a situation, the performance of the economy has been far from optimum. The Private Sector has not produced the desired result and the Public Sector has been suffering from lack of definite purposes.

We have been pointing out that Government control of the vital sectors of the economy is not compatible with the liberal political philosophy adopted in our country. Besides, there are serious dangers in mixing up of incompatible elements of socialist economy and market economy in the name of a mixed economy. Such an experiment proved costly in other countries and, as we see now in retrospect, our economy suffered badly having experimented the same. In our country, the Government took over nearly the entire economy and curbed private enterprise presumably to attain "exploitation free" society, though the country was kept in a political frame of Western democracy. The costly experiment aggravated the economic problems and the teeming millions, who are already under-housed, under-clothed and under-nourished, were subjected to inexplicable suffering.

The remnants of the approach seem to have found their way in the Second Five-Year Plan. The Plan document, while describing the policy issues, states "Major public issues underlying the industrial development programme of this Plan are associated with the role of the Private Sector, improvement of the Public Sector (which is the prime mover of the economy....)" (Page XI-8). In no true mixed economy system, Public Sector is conceived as the "prime mover of the economy". It is only as in our country, particularly when this expectation of 'prime mover' has not been fulfilled during the First Five Year Plan and the Two-Year Plan. The Second Five-Year Plan itself recognises this and describes in the following way: "The financial performance of the public utilities remained far from satisfactory. Many of the commercial enterprises instead of making any contribution to the exchequer had to survive on direct and indirect subsidies. During 1972-73 to 1978-79, the jute industry incurred accounting loss of Tk. 182 crores while net pre-tax profit of some major Corporations viz., Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation and Bangladesh Textile Mills

Corporation stood at Tk. 168.30 crores which denoted too poor return on investment. Profits of these Corporations will be much less or even negative if accounts are taken of depreciation at replacement cost, debt service charges and subsidies received from other Sectors" (Page IV-2). We recognise that any controversy on the desirability of Public Sector is old and out-dated and that in an economy like ours, there is plenty of scope for mutually fruitful relationship between the two sectors for larger national goals--the Public Sector to initiate development of infrastructures and exploitation of minerals and other such strategic resources, and the Private Sector to be engaged in investment activities within the framework of national policy. The most immediate reason for this is that efficiency in producing many diverse industrial products is difficult for the Government bureaucracy to achieve. Besides, there are not many Managers who can perform in the type of bureaucratic set-up as we have in our country. This is being realised more and more even by the Socialist countries which recognise that attempts to manage by Government ownership and control an increasingly complex industrial system are becoming difficult.

If the Second Five-Year Plan which has been formulated after so much care and protracted deliberations reflects the Government's thinking about what should be the role of Public and Private Sectors the economy is due to suffer another setback.

In fact the manner in which the Second Five-Year Plan has treated the Private Sector in terms of resource allocations has ominous implications. Of the total financial outlay of Tk 5470 crores earmarked for Private Sector investment Tk. 5160 crores is to be financed by private savings and the remaining Tk. 310 crores is envisaged from foreign private investment. How indifferent and anomalous the Plan assumption is will be borne out by the Plan document itself which says elsewhere that national saving in 1979-80 was 3.3% (as published) of GDP, i.e. Tk 593 crores. Earlier the Finance Minister in his budget speech estimated public savings for the year 1979-80 at Tk. 468 crores. The remaining amount of Tk. 125 crores therefore constitutes private savings in the economy. If the private saving is to increase from Tk 125 crores per year to over Tk 1032 crores, the average saving that will be required to be generated by the private Sector each year, according to the Plan estimate will have to increase at an annual rate of 33%. There is no historical example of any economy achieving such a rate of private savings. A more balanced estimate though in our opinion a little optimistic one has been done by the Bangladesh Bank which says that the total resources that will be mobilised for the Private Sector during the Plan period are Tk 2691 crores. Adding to this the amount estimated as foreign investment of Tk. 310 crores the total comes to Tk 3001 crores. Given this estimate, if the Plan target of Tk. 5470 crores is to be achieved for the Private Sector, the only way by which it can be done is by producing entrepreneurs self finance to the extent of Tk. 2469 crores or 45.14% of the total projected investment in the Private Sector.

[8 Apr 81 p 51]

[Text] Such a treatment is perhaps due to the fact that the Second Five-Year Plan is skeptical of the potential of Private Sector. It says "The small proportion of sponsor's equity is suggestive of the low level of entrepreneurial

Interest in the Private Sector" (Page IX-6). Has the Private Sector interest been really indifferent? Statistics, however speak otherwise. During the First Five-Year Plan and two-Year Plan, equity capital that was disbursed by the specialised financial institutions amounted to a total of Tk. 166.69 crores which was 19.14% of the actual investment of Tk 425.86 crores by the Private Sector in manufacturing industries in a debt-equity ratio of 39:6.

We recognise that our entrepreneurs suffer from resource-constraint but it is not without any valid reasons. Our Private Sector has to operate under an administrative system in which controls and regulations overwhelm it. These reflect lack of trust. Our industries are not permitted to generate resources and are not allowed to earn a fair return on investments. Key decision-making elements of operating industries are also subjected to undue Government interference.

The tax rate in our country is one of the highest in the world. We have been emphasising during the last several years that the present tax structure is not conducive to capital formation and militates particularly against the relatively small and medium scale industries. The Government no doubt requires funds to meet the increasing needs of our developing economy, but we strongly feel that high tax rates do not yield larger revenue. In fact, there are instances where lower tax rates resulted in higher revenue increased production and investment. The nearest example is Sri Lanka, where a liberal approach in the recent years has resulted in higher growth rate and increased revenue to the exchequer. In our country too this fact was established during the period 1976-79, when with the reduction of highest rate from 77 per cent to 60 per cent, the total income tax collection increased to Tk. 149 crores from a meagre amount of Tk. 10.36 crores in 1972-73 and Tk. 19.23 crores in 1973-74. Our Chamber is second to none in recognising the national need for egalitarianism, but holds the firm view that social justice can be best achieved in the present circumstances only through the growth of the economy, encouragement of productive activities and enlargement of employment opportunities. There is only one alternative to these--economic stagnation with the resultant division of poverty.

Similarly, the Government's price control mechanism reduces the potential of corporate capital formation. If we exclude jute sector, price control has stronghold over 75 per cent of the production value of locally manufactured goods without any concomitant benefit to the consumers. The items on which the control is imposed, however, constitute less than 30 per cent of middle class family budget and its impact is even lesser in the cost of living of rural people. Though, not justified on grounds of social equity the controls have made it possible for the intermediaries in the distributive channel to appropriate huge profits. While the industries are in acute financial problem, considerable quantities of scarce resources go underground and often reappear in the form of black money.

The difficulties of entrepreneurs having used equity finance funded under different credits/aids in generating surplus funds are too well known to be mentioned here. Devaluation of our own currency and re-valuation of the currencies of AFR-giving countries have exposed them to a serious situation. There are cases where such industries having already paid 60 per cent to 75 per cent of the original loan still find themselves in 100 per cent debt.

Loss of vital production on account of electricity failures is also widespread. That power is the life-blood of industries seems to have been forgotten. On the other hand, full advantage is being taken of the monopoly conditions, and tariff rates are being increased at frequent intervals. The consumers are being denied of the cost advantage accrued from use of natural gas in the main generating stations. Corruption has not been checked, systematic loss has not been minimised, administrative overhead has not been reduced; but, on the other hand, the burden on the consumers has been increased in total disregard to the tariff-rates charged in comparable countries, not using low-cost natural gas as the major input.

To sum up:

(1) The good-intentioned objectives of the present Government to achieve a quick industrial break-through will continue to remain largely unfulfilled, if these are not backed up by consistent policy towards Private Sector. A policy without any clear ideological basis is again bound to be inconsistent.

With the exception of armament industry, railway, telecommunication, all other sectors of industry should be open to the Private Sector. It should be borne in mind that the social, cultural and religious attitude of our people overwhelmingly support free enterprise.

(2) The Government should enunciate clearly what should be the goals and objectives of Public Sector under-takings so that they may be much more rewarding national assets.

Profitability should be recognised as the measure of their success.

(3) "Residual treatment" given to the Private Sector in the Second Five-Year Plan needs to be rectified and anomalies over financing new Private Sector investment should be removed.

(4) The Government should firm up a financing programme to fully meet the equity requirements of new investments in Private Sector so that it may achieve the targets envisaged in the Plan.

(5) Industrial sector should be allowed to earn a fair return on their investment. Here, I do not refer only to the Private Sector but to the Public Sector also.

Through tax incentives and concessions, industries must be made more attractive than trading and speculative activities.

(6) The decision-making elements of operating industries withing Public and Private Sectors should be left to industries with minimum interference from Government. Decision on product development, marketing, pricing, expansion plan etc., should be left to individual corporate entities.

(7) A fund should be created to provide cover to the industries financed under different aids/credits against currency fluctuation losses.

CSO: 4220/7720

BANGLADESH-SOVIET SOCIETY MEETS ON LENIN'S BIRTHDAY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Bangladesh-Soviet Friendship Society Thursday held a meeting in observance of the 111th birth observance of Vladimir I. Lenin leader of the Great October Socialist Revolution and founder of the world's first socialist state in the Soviet Union reports BSS.

Presided over by Mr. M. A. Wadud Vice-President of the Society the meeting was addressed as the chief guest by Mr. Justice Syed Mahmud Hussain of Bangladesh Supreme Court. Other speakers were: Mr. V. L. Sokolov Counsellor of Soviet Embassy in Dacca Professor Kabir Choudhury Prof. Mosharraf Hossain and Prof. Sardar Fazlul Karim of Dacca University Mr Mohammed Nabi General Secretary of the Society.

The speakers highly lauded Lenin's contribution as a fundamental theorist statesman and revolutionary in practice, who according to them has changed the course of history and destiny of oppressed mankind throughout the world.

They also commended Lenin's principles of peaceful coexistence proletarian internationalism support to the cause of advancing national liberation peace and understanding among nations in the world. They also lauded the statesmanship of Lenin in settling economic and nationality questions in multi-national state of post-revolution Soviet Union.

In his speech Mr. Justice Syed Mahmud Hussain said that the great country that was founded by Lenin was a great friend and active supporter of Bangladesh during its liberation struggle. A friend in 1971 would continue to remain a friend for ever Mr. Justice Hussain added.

Mr. Justice Hussain referred to the letter of Soviet President N. V. Podgorny to the then Pakistani ruler General Yahya Khan in April 1971 protesting violation of human rights in Bangladesh and said that this letter had created a new example in the history of diplomacy in the world. The Soviet Union was one of the first countries which had come forward with support for our liberation struggle at the state level.

He paid homage to the V. I. Lenin for his statesmanship in advancing the revolutionary process that left a teaching for all and observed that Lenin dealt successfully with a likely economic disaster by his prudent new economic policy.

Later a play was staged by a local drama group to mark the occasion.

CSU: 47-0/7737

BANGLADESH

FINANCE MINISTER REPORTS TO HOUSE ON INFLATION RATE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman told Jatiya Sangsad on Friday that the rate of inflation in the country during the first eight months of the current fiscal year was 10.57 per cent.

The Finance Minister was replying to a starred question on inflation by Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed of National Awami Party.

Mr Saifur Rahman pointed out that the average index of expenditure of the middle class standard of life in Dacca during the first eight months of the 1979-80 fiscal year was 224.63; which rose to 248.38 during the corresponding period in 1980-81.

The Finance Minister pointed out that the various anti-inflationary measures of the Government included increase in production in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors; liberal import policy restructuring of taxes on certain essential items; banning of import and price control of certain essential items and the like.

He pointed out that the Bangladesh Bank also continued to take measures to ensure that the money circulation and expansion of domestic bank credits remained within the safe limits.

In reply to another question by Mr Shahjahan; Siraj of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal; the Finance Minister said that in 1980; one and two poisha coins worth Tk. 83;77,854 and Tk. 29,73;664 respectively had been issued. [as published]

CSO: 4220/77

PACT WITH RIYADH ON HIRING OF BANGLADESHIS ANNOUNCED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Home Minister Mr A. S. M. Mustafizur Rahman said in Dacca Wednesday that an agreement had been reached in principle with Saudi Arabia under which a large number of Bangladeshi workers would get employment there reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen on return from a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia at the Kurmitola Airport the Home Minister said that senior officials of the two countries would meet sometime later to finalise the details before signing the agreement.

Mr. Rahman who visited Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Interior Minister Prince Naif who held talks with him. [as published]

The Home Minister also called on King Khaled during the visit.

Mr. Rahman indicated that both the public as well as the private sectors in Saudi Arabia will take Bangladeshi workers for employment.

He said that the visit has further cemented the cordial and fraternal ties between the two countries. He said that the Saudi Interior Minister has accepted his invitation to visit Bangladesh. The Prince is likely to pay the visit by December.

CSO: 4220/7735

FINANCE MINISTER NOTES BANK PROFITS, FOREIGN AID

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Finance Minister Saifur Rahman told the House on Friday that the nationalised banks carried a profit of Taka 45.51 crore in 1980 on the basis of external audit. On completion of the audit and approval of the balance sheet by the Cabinet an amount of Taka 7.32 crore out of the profit of Taka 45.51 crore would be paid as bonus to the bank employees.

The Minister was replying to a question of Mr. Mosharraf Hossain (AL-H).

In reply to a question of Mr Md. Abdul Bari Sardar the Finance Minister informed the House that Taka 15,12,000 were spent for petrol and diesel for the transport of the officers of Bangladesh Bank and other commercial banks during 1979-80 and 1980-81.

To a question of Flt. Lt. (Retd) A. B. Siddique (AL-Mizan) the Finance Minister said that the total number of employees in nationalised commercial banks are 55 000 and their total wages and allowances were Taka 51 46,27,00 during nine months of the current fiscal year.

In reply to a question of Mr Nizamuddin Khan (BNP) the Finance Minister said that a uniform service rule for all employees of the nationalised banks had been finalised and it was under consideration of the Government now.

CSO: 4220/7738

OFFICIAL SEES IMPROVEMENT IN BORDER SITUATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Apr 81 p 11

[Text] Jessore, April 25:--Joint verification of damaged and missing boundary pillars between Jessore district of Bangladesh and 24-Parganas of West Bengal has been completed and reconstruction and repairing of those pillars [as published] would be taken up from May 1.

This was decided in a joint border conference held at Calcutta on April 21.

Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Jessore, who led Bangladesh side in the conference disclosed the decisions in a Press briefing at his residence last night.

The construction work would start from Benapole point on both northern and southern sides simultaneously under joint supervision.

Giving details of the decision of the meeting the Deputy Commissioner told that considerable improvement has been achieved in border incidents since their last meeting held in September 18 last.

For example he said meeting of September 1980 considered over 50 complaints, whereas last meeting received only one complaint lodged by West Bengal Government. Emphasising upon importance of recurrence of such meeting held in September 18, the Deputy Commissioner said it is necessary for smooth administration of border areas in both sides.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that till 1979 there were series of dacoities, cow lifting and cropcutting incidents in border areas but during last six months there was no such incident. This was possible because police administration of both sides Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Forces worked together at finding out those anti-social elements.

The conference decided that flag meetings between BDR and BSF would be held regularly [as published] and simultaneous drive of antismuggling by both sides within five miles of border belt would be intensified. The conference also adopted positive steps for speedy transportation of import and exported commodities in Benapole and Petrapole check posts allowing Bangladeshi trucks to move up to Indian warehouses. Besides necessary arrangements are being made to supply fish to Calcutta market subject to approval of National Board of Revenue.

1301: 2 7744

BANGLADESH

NEW AWAMI LEAGUE PEASANTS' ORGANIZATION FORMED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Apr 81 p 12

[Text] A new organisation under the name and style of "Bangladesh Bhumiheen Krishak Bhagchashi League" (Bangladesh Landless Peasants and Share Croppers League) was formed in Dacca recently says a Press release issued on Monday.

Sponsored by a group of senior Awami League (Hasina) leadres, the organisation aims at ameliorating the fate of the landless peasants and share croppers on the basis of the second revolution of Bangabandhu.

A 51-member organising committee was formed with former Office Secretary of the Awami League Mr. Anowar Chowdhury as convener and Messrs. Fazlul Huq, A. S. M. Firoz, MP, Sirajul Islam, MP, M S. Said as joint convener.

The new organisation came into being at meeting attended by leaders believing in the ideals of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and representatives of the landless peasants with former Parliament Member Mr. Shamsuddin Mollah presiding.

It may be mentioned here that there is already a front organisation of Awami League styled as Bangladesh Krishak League.

A full-fledged working committee will be formed at a national convention to be held in the next three months. Sheikh Hasina will be requested to inaugurate the national convention of the new organisation.

CSO: 4220/7744

SOVIET EMBASSY MEETING OBSERVES LENIN'S BIRTHDAY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Apr 81 p 12

[Text] The cultural section of the Soviet Embassy in Dacca on Saturday arranged a discussion meeting to observe the 111 birth anniversary of V I Lenin.

Presided over by Mr Ali Aksad, Secretary General of Bangladesh Peace Council, the meeting was addressed by messrs R K Grigoriev, chief of the cultural department of Soviet Embassy, Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Rashed Khan Menon, MP and Shahjahan Siraj MP.

Mr Suranjit Sengupta said that V I Lenin had inspired people in colonial countries in their struggle against imperialism to achieve national liberation.

Mr Sengupta recalled Soviet help to Bangladesh when imperialism opposed its birth during the war of independence. He said that the Soviet Union helped also Angola and Ethiopia similarly. He has also signed treaties of friendship with Syria, Mozambique, Angola and Afghanistan Mr Sengupta said.

Defending the Soviet policy in Afghanistan Mr Suranjit Sengupta said that the Soviet Union went to help Afghanistan to defend her revolution and independence.

Mr Rashed Khan Menon read out a paper in which he said that the need of a Lenin was felt in Bangladesh which was fighting against imperialism and striving for achieving emancipation from exploitation.

Mr Shahjahan Siraj observed that paying respect to Lenin was a sacred task for all those fighting against imperialism, fascism in underdeveloped countries.

He also urged the Soviet Union which he termed as the shrine of socialism to take up the leadership of the world working class movement and resolve the contradiction in the socialist camp.

CSO: 4229/7741

NATURAL GAS UTILIZATIONS ALLEVIATES FUEL CRISIS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Apr 81 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text] The demand for energy will increase with the pace of development and along with it the share of commercial energy in the total energy consumption will also increase. The planned growth of GNP at 7 per cent over the Second Five Year Plan period and the electrification of about 40 per cent of the villages will have an impact on the energy consumption. This acceleration in demand for commercial energy will take place in an age when the prices of crude oil show no sign of relief. The oil crisis is already costing Bangladesh 50 per cent of her export earnings though her per capita consumption of petroleum and petroleum products is one of the lowest among the developing countries.

In this context the opening of Habiganj-Ashuganj gas pipeline is inspiring. Inaugurating the 36-mile gas pipeline in Sylhet on Monday the Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mr. Akbar Hossain said that the project would play a vital role in the economic development of the country by directly supplying gas to Ashuganj fertilizer complex where it would be used as raw material as well as fuel. It is really heartening that the supply of gas throughout the country would reduce the country's import of fuel by 75 per cent thus saving a bulk of our foreign exchange. We have been spending Taka 900 crore annually for import of fuel. According to the Petroleum Minister, efforts are underway to connect all the gas fields of the country with one another to ensure smooth distribution of gas. Efforts are also reportedly being made to supply gas across the Jamuna. The fact that the Taka 12-crore Habiganj-Ashuganj gas pipeline project has been solely done by the country's own experts without any foreign technical assistance deserves appreciation.

It may be mentioned that the Second Five Year Plan aims at reducing the inter-regional imbalance in per capita power consumption as well as that between the rural and urban areas. The supply of gas from Bakhrabad gas field to Chittagong would further help reduce the power imbalance. Expeditious completion of the Bakhrabad project is an imperative. As stated by the Minister, this project would be completed by 1982. Different international financial institutions including World Bank and Asian Development Bank and Japan have reportedly agreed to provide Bangladesh with the required foreign exchange and technical assistance. This would, we hope, help completion of the project as per schedule.

Consumption of power is still concentrated in large cities. Though the networks have already been expanded to about three fourths of the total number of thanas, the structure of the networks has disproportionately large share of sub-transmission lines. As envisaged in the Second Plan, the expansion strategy should be to increase the number of low voltage lines in order to fully utilize the existing transmission and sub-transmission capacity. Proportion of distribution facilities in the west zone will need to be enhanced to increase per capita power consumption in that region. In order to ensure power supply reliability steps should be taken to provide double supply routes to important industries. All possible efforts have to be made to utilise gas and other available sources of power as a powerful tool for rapid economic development of the country.

CSO: 7/20/7719

BRIEFS

SWITCH TO METRIC SYSTEM--Bangladesh will switch over to metric system of weights and measures from July 1, 1982 according to official sources in Dacca on Tuesday; reports BSS. The sources said that the Council of Ministers has already approved the proposal for introducing the metric system throughout the country from July next year. Bangladesh Standards Institution has prepared converting factors table relating to weights length capacity area volume and shipping measures. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Apr 81 p 8]

NEW BNP SECRETARIES--The Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), President Ziaur Rahman on Wednesday appointed three secretaries to carry out his revolutionary programme; reports BSS. According to a party Press release; Mr Arif Moynuddin, MP Mr Fazlur Rahman Patal and Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Hild have been appointed Secretaries of Education; Population Control and Agriculture respectively. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Apr 81 p 1]

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OFFICIALS--Democratic League elected a new Executive Committee for the years 1981-83 at the concluding session of its national council on April 5, according to a press release of the party, reports BSS. President Khandker Mushtaq Ahmed Vice-Presidents: Mr Oli Ahad Mr Mukhlesuzzaman Khan Mr Abdur Razzak Mr Abdur Rouf Chowdhury and Gazi Shahidullah, General Secretary: Shah Moazzem Hossain, Joint Secretaries: Principal Anwaruzzaman Khan and Syed Reazul Hossain. Organising Secretaries: Mr Shameem Al Mamun, Mr Shahjahan Khan, Abu Advocate Hemayetuddin and Mr Numan Chowdhury Publicity Secretary: Mr Wali Ashraf. Social Welfare Secretary: Dr. Abdur Rashid Cultural Secretary: Professor Mominul Huq International Relations Secretary: Barrister Qazi Kamal Ahmed Agriculture Secretary: Mr Mia Musa Hossain Labour Secretary Dr K. B. M. Abu Hena. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Apr 81 p 8]

BANGLADESH-DPRK SOCIETY--Office bearers of Bangladesh-Korea Democratic (People's Republic of Korea) Friendship Association including Mr Q. G. Ajmiri, Mr Md Toaha MP Mirza Nu ul Huda, Mr Sirajul Hossain Khan Mr Nurun Nabi Mr M U Bhuyian and Mr Aziz Meher in a statement on Thursday said that the friendship association had no connection with the holding of an international seminar on Juche idea (Kim Il Sungism) in Dacca. The signatories said, 'it appears that the seminar is a personal affair of some individuals here for their personal gains' they also questioned the source of such huge fund which was being spent for holding the seminar. [as published] They said, 'we are constrained to observe that the role of the DPRK embassy here is also dubious'. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Apr 81 p 8]

GRANT FOR CRUDE--Jeddah, April 28: Bangladesh was granted a 20 million dollar assistance for crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia, the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) announced today, reports UNA. The announcement said, the bank had approved over 50 million dollars in project and other assistance to member countries on Monday evening. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29 Apr 81 p 1]

BANGLADESH-SOVIET EDUCATION PROTOCOL--A five-year protocol (1981-85) on education and training between Bangladesh and USSR was signed in Dacca Wednesday. The protocol provides for training of Bangladeshi students in USSR at graduate and under graduate levels in the fields of engineering medicine agriculture, pedagogy and cultural specialities says a PID handout issued in Dacca on Wednesday. The Education Secretary Government of Bangladesh and the Ambassador of the USSR Mr. V. Stepanov to Bangladesh signed the protocol on behalf of their respective governments. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 p 1]

SOVIETS IN CHITTAGONG--The visiting eight-member high powered delegation headed by Mr. Sasunkob Deputy Minister for Electro-technical Industries USSR visited the GM Plant at Chittagong on Tuesday. The plant was set up in collaboration with USSR according to a PID handout issued in Dacca on Tuesday. The delegation arrived in Dacca on Monday for negotiation with Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation in connection with requirement of know-how and raw-materials for GM Plant. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 p 3]

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE RESIGNATION--Kazi Kamal Ahmed, International Affairs Secretary and Convener of the Constitution Sub-committee of Democratic League has severed all relations with the Democratic League. In a statement to the Press on Wednesday Kazi Kamal said that he joined the Democratic League with the objective of establishing democracy in the country. But he regretted that due to internal rift in the party and undemocratic activities inside the party it was impossible to fulfill this objective. "I therefore have decided to resign from the Democratic League" he added. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 p 12]

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX--Dr. Fasihuddin Mahtab, Minister of Planning, told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the cost of living index increased at the annual rate of 7.6 per cent since July, 1975. The Minister replying to a question by Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar said the cost of living index at 1969-70 constant price was Tk. 314.80 in July, 1975 and it rose to Tk. 399.67 in July 1980. The Minister said the per capita income under current price in the fiscal year 1979-80 was Tk. 1,774, Tk. 156 more than the per capita income in 1978-79. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 81 p 12]

NEW POLITICAL PARTY--Yet another party styled "Progressive Democratic Front" (Progotishil Ganotantrik Sakti) came into being on Sunday. A nine-member organising committee with Mr Matius Rahman as its President was formed at a meeting held at 34, Free School Street, Dacca. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Apr 81 p 3]

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA--The Government has decided to appoint Major-General K M Saffiullah at present High Commissioner to Malaysia; as High Commissioner for Bangladesh to Canada says an official announcement; reports BSS. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Apr 81 p 8]

DELEGATE TO HAVANA--Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali MP Chairman MuktiJoddha Shanghati Parishad and member Bangladesh Peace Council left Dacca on Thursday for Havana to attend the coming meeting of the presidential committee of the World Peace Council reports BSS. The World Peace Council President Mr. Ramesh Chandra will preside over the meeting which will be inaugurated by the Cuban President Dr. Fidel Castro. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Apr 81 p 8]

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS--Mr. Faruque Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador to EEC is being tipped as the successor of Mr. Humayun Rashid Chowdhury as Bangladesh Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Mr. H. R. Chowdhury has been made the Foreign Secretary to replace Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria who has been appointed Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Mr. Shamsul Alam, Ambassador to Poland is expected to replace Mr. Faruque Ahmed Chowdhury in Brussels. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Apr 81 p 1]

CHITTAGONG VICE CHANCELLOR--April 19: Md Abdul Aziz Khan, Dean Faculty of Science took over charge as Vice-Chancellor of the Chittagong University today, reports BSS. Born in Pabna in 1931, Mr Khan did his M.Sc in Botany from Dacca University in 1952. He joined Dacca University in the year 1953 and worked there till December 1972. He joined Chittagong University in 1973 as the head of the Department of Botany. Mr Khan got his Ph.D from Cambridge University in the year 1964. He attended St Andrew's University UK as Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow in 1977 and remained in England till 1978. He is married and has three children. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Apr 81 p 1]

CSO: 4220/7727/7728/7730

RAO TELLS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION WITH HUANG HUA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 81 p 5

[Text] All matters of bilateral interest, including resumption of pilgrimage by Indian citizens to Kailash and Mansarovar, will be on the agenda for the discussions with the Chinese Foreign Minister when he visits India next month, reports PTL.

This was stated by Minister for External Affairs P V Narasimha Rao, in reply to a question by Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Mr Bosu asked whether it was correct that at their own initiative, the Chinese had already started the process by which Indian citizens would be able to visit the two shrines, Kailash and Mansarovar...?

Mr Rao replied that India had moved in the matter several times. The Chinese had replied that they were agreeable to it. Last year rather at a late stage, they asked India whether a certain number of pilgrims could go. India asked for some more details about the arrangements. Thereafter there was no reply. "However, we find the Chinese side willing to consider this and I hope when the Foreign Minister comes here we will be able to clinch the issue".

Mr Bosu: In their anxiety to normalise relations with India, the Chinese are allowing more and more Indian citizens to visit China. Will the Minister be in a position to say how many Indian citizens visited China last year.

Mr Narasimha Rao: This is a sweeping question and I wish you had not put it. The Chinese Foreign Minister is coming here and we will like to talk about it...his pilgrimage to India is the first in the series. (laughter).

Dr Subramaniam Swamy said during his recent visit to China, he had raised this issue with Chinese leaders on several occasions. He was informed that they were repairing roads and renovating temples in the two Hindu shrines. "Will the Government offer the services of technical experts to repair the temples and share the expenses?"

Mr Narasimha Rao replied he did not wish to anticipate anything. He did not know whether they had architects and experts or they wanted them from India. If there was any such proposals, "we shall consider the same".

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INDIA

INDIA REPORTEDLY SEEKS TO PURCHASE AIRCRAFT CARRIER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 May 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] India has decided to go in for a second aircraft-carrier, it is learnt.

Three Western firms have been contacted for the purpose.

The first aircraft-carrier, "Vikrant", is being modernised at Mazagon Docks and will be ready for sea-trials in August and return to fleet duties by the end of the year.

It is calculated that before "Vikrant" gets too old, (its keel was laid about the end of World War II and it was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1961), a replacement will have joined it in fleet service.

Military experts have countered opposition from certain quarters to acquisition of aircraft-carriers on the plea that India has no imperialist designs by pointing out that it would be more cost-effective to defend India's long coastline and its two million sq km exclusive economic zone (EEZ) by keeping the prospective invader far off than by trying to hit him when he closes in.

Besides, they say, aircraft-carriers are no more expensive than frigates per ton of displacement with a full complement of aircraft.

More Flexibility

It is an accepted doctrine that an aircraft on a floating platform makes for greater flexibility of response than a land-based aircraft.

Today, with ships and aircraft equipped with stand-off missiles it has become all the more necessary to have capability to detect and destroy these sources before they can launch their missiles. This can only be done with an aircraft, it is stated.

Three Requirements

Besides, an aircraft can combine within itself all three requirements of naval action--anti-aircraft, anti-ship and anti-submarine.

Yet, fears have been expressed that a vessel [as published] the size of an aircraft-carrier is easy prey to submarines and aircraft with standoff missiles.

The Navy is trying to minimise these dangers by modernisation of all electronic equipment on board "Vikrant", including the underwater sensors and radars, and to match it with improved versions of aircraft like the vertical and short take-off and landing (V/STOL) aircraft and Sea Harrier.

The Navy had placed orders for 11 Sea Harriers with options for 11 more to be delivered in 1982. However, the Cong-I when it returned to power allowed the option to buy at 1978 prices to lapse on the ground that the technology needs to be fully mastered before so large an outlay can be made.

It is now understood that the Navy is likely to ask the Government for more Sea Harriers for the Vikrant. Navy pilots are being sent to the UK for training on the aircraft.

CSO: 2220/7714

PLAN OUTLAY FOR PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES TOLD

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 May 81 p 2

[Text] A total outlay of Rs 704.04 crore has been provided in the Sixth Five Year Plan for implementation of various schemes and projects by public sector undertakings under the department of heavy industries, according to official sources, reports UNI.

Of this investment, a sum of Rs 235.05 crore is to be spent on ongoing schemes and Rs 130.65 crore on modernisation.

Implementation of new schemes in these undertakings is covered by an investment of Rs 236.42 crore while a sum of Rs 57.31 crore has been allocated for research and development programmes. A provision of Rs 44.61 crore has been made for building townships in various project areas.

The outlay for capital projects and other programmes during 1980-81 was Rs 109.22 crore. The progress on construction of and expenditure on, projects was closely monitored and the estimated expenditure during the year was around Rs 106 crore.

The budgeted expenditure on capital projects and other programmes for the year 1981-82 is Rs 124.47 crore. In view of the much higher projected requirements of power generation and transmission equipment during the current plan and beyond, a number of schemes are proposed to be launched and completed during the plan period.

These schemes include manufacture of large-size turbo-generating sets at Hardwar, boiler expansion at Tiruchi, augmentation of facilities for switchgears, manufacture of bowl mills at Hyderabad and other projects.

A greater emphasis is also being laid on increasing capacity utilisation and production in public sector undertakings through modernisation and diversification, project upgradation in quality and unit size and through balancing equipment.

CSO: 4220/7714

MIZORAM CHIEF MINISTER URGES FRONT TO BEGIN TALKS

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 May 81 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, May 6.

The Mizoram Chief Minister, Brig T. Sailo, has called upon the underground Mizo National Front to refrain from violence and create a peaceful atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue with the Government of India.

He said in spite of the ceasefire which came into force in Mizoram on the midnight of July 31-August 1 last, a series of violent incidents had rocked the union territory. He listed 15 incidents involving collection of "taxes" by the MNF, fresh recruitment to the MNF, and attacks on civilians and security forces. Despite these violation of the ceasefire agreement, the security forces and the Mizoram Government "have refrained from taking any action against the MNF in order to preserve the peaceful atmosphere necessary for a successful dialogue", he said.

The Chief Minister stated that the MNF leader, Mr. Laldenga, had repeatedly talked of a peaceful settlement within the framework of the Constitution of India.

Mr. Laldenga had asked for Statehood plus constitutional safeguards for Mizoram. Several other political parties, including the ruling People's conference, had made a similar demand that could best be achieved through peaceful negotiations, the Chief Minister said.

OSD: 1/20/7713

INDIA

GANDHI HOLDS 6 MAY PRESS CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 May 81 p 1

[Text] Geneva, May 6.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, today asked the U.S. to refrain from arming Pakistan in a big way as it would further escalate tensions in the region.

Addressing a crowded press conference here, she said India was not against the defence needs of Pakistan, but the Reagan administration "must face the reality of the situation" as arms supplied to Pakistan in the past had always been used against India.

Answering questions about Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, Mrs. Gandhi said "The Pakistan Government tells us that it has no intentions to take such an action, but we do not know what the situation is".

Asked whether she had said that India would respond in a suitable way if Pakistan exploded a nuclear bomb Mrs. Gandhi said "One must be fully aware of what is happening in the neighbourhood and take necessary measures".

"It depends whether Pakistan wants to make the bomb or to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes".

She said there had been a lot of propaganda in the West that India was encouraging Pakistan to take up a nuclear weapons programme. But now there was abundant evidence that Pakistan had started its nuclear programme and obtained certain nuclear equipment from abroad much before India began its peaceful [as published] nuclear programme, she pointed out.

The Prime Minister reiterated that India's nuclear programme was only geared to developmental purposes like generation of power and use in the agricultural and medical fields.

U.S. tilt: When an American correspondent asked whether the U.S. Government's decision to resume arms aid to Pakistan signalled a tilt of the Reagan administration towards Islamabad, Mrs. Gandhi replied, "We have faced such a tilt for many years and we have survived it. We can only hope that the Reagan administration will face up to the reality of the situation".

She said the U.S. should not fit arms supplies to Pakistan in the global strategy.

Afghanistan: Regarding Afghanistan, Mrs. Gandhi said there had to be a political solution to the problem. "Mere condemnation will not help the situation."

On the Iran-Iraq conflict, she said she did not contemplate any personal initiative.

The "group of four" of the non-aligned, of which the Indian Foreign Minister was a member, had already begun talks with leaders in Teheran and Baghdad. It was going there again.

Regarding the militarisation of the Indian Ocean, she said the big power rivalry threatened the security not only of the littoral States, but of the entire world.

Flight attendant: By using an Indian Airlines plane on her current foreign tour, Mrs. Gandhi has not lost her faith in Air-India.

"Certainly not," she told a journalist at the press conference when asked whether she had lost faith in Air-India after the alleged bid to sabotage its Boeing 707, "Mosala".

Mrs. Gandhi said she felt that the smaller IA Boeing 737 was less tiring because it necessitated stopovers. "to catch one's breath so to speak".--UNI & PTI.

CS0: 4220/7713

REPORT ON GANDHI'S 7 MAY SPEECH TO GENEVA MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 May 81 pp 1, 7

[Article by Chakravarthi Raghavan]

[Text] Geneva, May 6.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi threw the full weight of India's support behind the World Health Organisation policies of health for all by the year 2000 through primary healthcare and the other strategies under attack from a powerful industry.

In an address to the 34th World Health Assembly, she called for developing patterns of public health and health administration in third world countries more suited to their needs, and for emphasis in WHO on tackling major diseases and epidemics afflicting [as published] the third world--Malaria, Leprosy, blindness etc.

She took a critical approach to the powerful drug industry and other big industries with "concentration on profit, fierce competition and recourse of hard-sell advertising." She said poor countries had to buy medicines at exorbitant prices and dangerous drugs prohibited within countries of manufacture were tried out on populations of weaker countries.

In supporting the WHO attempts to regulate the international baby food industry, Mrs Gandhi said publicity made third world countries victims of habits and practices economically wasteful or wholly contrary to health and instanced the controversy over the exports of baby food to third world countries.

No Profiteering

"My idea of a better ordered world is one in which medical discoveries would be free of patents and there would be no profiteering from life to death," said Mrs Gandhi.

In what was interpreted to be support to the WHO efforts to regulate the trans-national baby food industry, and its promotional campaigns, Mrs Gandhi said "publicity made us victims of habits and practices which are economically wasteful or wholly contrary to good health. You are all familiar with the controversy over the export of baby foods to developing countries."

Development, she believed, did not command the enthusiasm that defence did the industrialised countries had been saved one billion dollars annually by eradication

of smallpox and giving up compulsory vaccinations. [as published] "But is it being used to assist other development work on health?" she asked.

Apart from high cost of health care in third world countries because of dependence on research, drugs etc, doctors and nurses trained at great costs are lured away by high salaries and tempting work opportunities. These losses of third world countries, through migration, should be recompensed.

In reference to the what the media here calls "census shock to India planners" (additional 12 million population found in the latest census) Mrs Gandhi noted that India was among few third world countries, if not the only one in which increase in production of grain is larger than increase in people." [as published]

Referring to controversies that enveloped her emergency administration over sterilization, Mrs Gandhi said while the Government had adopted policies of motivation to persuade people, there had been no policy of forcible sterilization. There were some cases due to mistaken over zealousness or other mischief, but the baseless propaganda unleashed and political use of gross exaggeration and falsehood had done great harm to family planning programmes.

But Indian people, even in rural areas, did want family planning. They were beginning to understand that children had certain needs and were not merely hand to help the family. [as published] Also there was need to coordinate world-wide research in contraception and evolve a safe, preferably oral, drug that women and men can take. Without this, no amount of Government commitment and political determination will avail, she said.

CSO: 4220/7714

INDIA

REPORT ON GANDHI 7 MAY SPEECH AT BERNE LUNCHEON

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Berne, May 7 (PTI)

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, expressing her concern at the Afghan situation and the Iran-Iraq war, today called for an end to confrontation in various parts of the world.

Speaking at a lunch hosted in her honour here by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr Kurt Furgler, Mrs Gandhi pledged India's continued efforts to "reinforce trust in our immediate region". India would consider it a privilege and duty to do what it can to defuse tensions, she added.

Mrs Gandhi spoke of closeness of outlook between India and Switzerland which augured well for their bilateral ties and for working together to reduce international tensions.

Calling for total and universal disarmament, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that the cost of military defence of strong nations was rising every day and it commanded a major share of world resources.

Mrs Gandhi said that there was an atmosphere of suspicion in Europe, a tremendous increase in arms build up especially in the Indian Ocean region and blatant confrontation in many parts of Asia. These were neither local nor unconnected events, she added.

India, she said, was anxious about the Iran-Iraq conflict and also that in Afghanistan conditions were not being created for withdrawal of outside presences.

Mrs Gandhi said these developments were not causes but the consequences of various events in the neighbourhood and even farther afield. [as published] Confrontation must be stopped, she urged.

India, she said, believed that there was no problem which could not be solved through negotiations.

Western Media

Mrs Gandhi deprecated the tendency in the Western media to look down upon poverty and lack of literacy in India.

She said as a person who always had close contact with the people and who was exposed to them all the time, she was greatly impressed by the degree of understanding shown by the ordinary Indian people.

The Prime Minister said "what made her most proud of her people was their spirit of accepting challenges and their whole attitude towards life". Mrs Gandhi said she had come across the expression of the spirit in the daily open house-meeting with the people, a practice she had instituted in her father's time.

"These contacts with the people have given me a certain feel of their spirits and their attitudes, and it would not be wrong to say that this has made my task as the Prime Minister a little easier", Mrs Gandhi added.

It was a nostalgic journey down the memory lane for Mrs Gandhi when she visited her school in this small and scenically spectacular Swiss town.

When she was ten, she studied in the famous La Pelouse School after coming to Switzerland with her mother Kamla Nehru, who was admitted to a sanatorium at nearby Montana retreat. Today she visited it as Prime Minister of India.

She planted a tree which she described as a symbol of life and a beautiful idea.

Mrs Gandhi drove here over a distance of 80 kilometres from Geneva to visit the school.

CSO: 4220/7715

INDIA

ASSAM PRESS ACT DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 81 p 1

[Text] Gauhati, May 6.--A division Bench of the Gauhati High Court today struck down Clause (C) of Section two of the Assam Special Powers (Press) Act, 1960 declaring it unconstitutional and void, report PTI and UNI.

The court also quashed the notifications issued under the Act by the Government directing three daily newspapers to submit all matters meant for publication to the Directorate of Information and Public Relations for scrutiny.

The division Bench consisting of Mr Justice N Ibotombi Singh and Mr Justice B L Hansaria gave its verdict on four writ petitions filed by the management of the ASSAM TRIBUNE and DAINIK ASOM--two Gauhati dailies,--the editor of DAINIK JANMABHUMI, an Assamese daily published from Jorhat and some organizations of journalists and newspaper employees challenging the constitutional validity of the Act.

The court, however, granted leave of appeal to the Supreme Court under Article 132 and 133 on an oral prayer on behalf of the Government of Assam. The Assam Government is considering to file an appeal in the Supreme Court against the verdict, according to the Chief Secretary.

The court held that the said clause of the Act was hit by Article 19 of the Constitution and that the "illusory remedy" provided by the Act was "unreasonable restriction" under Article 10 of the Constitution.

The Act imposed, in December 1980 in the thick of the agitation over the foreign nationals issue in Assam, expired on April 22 and was not further extended by the State Government.

The Centre's formal invitation letter for the proposed talks over the foreigner's issue on May 16 was delivered today to the All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad.

The Assam Government Chief Secretary, Mr Ranesh Chandra, who received the letter from New Delhi yesterday, said that it was delivered by a special messenger.

The AASU executive will meet here tomorrow to decide its stand on the proposed talks at New Delhi and finalize its strategy. The AAGSP executive was expected to meet here on Friday to take a final decision.

CSO: 42 0/7710

CONGRESS-U OFFICIAL RULES OUT MERGER WITH CONGRESS-I

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 81 p 9

[Text] Bombay, May 6.--The Maharashtra Congress (U) president, Mr Sharad Pawar, today ruled out the possibility of immediate merger of his party with the Congress (I). He told a Press conference that according to his information not even any discussion was going on about merger at any level in his party. Nobody appeared to be enthusiastic, he remarked.

Mr Pawar was reacting to the statement made by the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr A. B. Antulay, yesterday that the merger of the two Congress parties was being considered.

Mr Pawar clarified that he had met Mr Antulay two days ago to discuss the difficulties faced by those against whom the Government had filed cases in connexion with the farmers march in Nagpur.

He had neither requested Mr Antulay to withdraw these cases nor was there any discussion about the possibility [as published] of merger, he said.

While making statements, Mr Pawar had made in Pune last week regarding merger of the Congress parties. Mr Pawar said that when he was asked about his views of politics in the next decade, he had said that ultimately there would remain only three political parties in the country--The Congress, a party with the ideology of the BJP and the Communists.

He said that in about a decade the two Congress parties would have to merge. He had ruled out merger as long as the leadership of the Congress (I) did not change its style of functioning. He said rumours of merger were being spread as part of a systematic campaign to demoralize rank and file of the Congress (U).

The Congress (I) leader Mr Y. B. Chavan, today declined to comment on the reports of merger of the two Congress parties.

While talking with reporters, Mr Chavan said however, he saw no chance for the Congress (I) to rule the country for another two decades, adds

He said his statement in Calcutta that "today's opposition and differences may not be tomorrow" he said the comment concerned both the parties.

DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS DISCUSSED IN LOK SABHA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 6.--The Government is taking steps from time to time to update the nation's defence preparedness in the light of developments which had a bearing on India's security, the Minister of State for Defence, Mr Shivraj Patil, informed the Lok Sabha today report UNI and PTI.

Mr Patil said the Government was aware of the implications to the nation's security arising from the special Sino-Pakistani military relationship and large-scale induction of American arms into Pakistan.

Mirage Aircraft: Mr Patil told the House that manufacturers of Mirage 2,000 aircraft had shown an interest in the supply and indigenous manufacture of the aircraft in India but the Government had not taken a view in the matter.

Pak Acquisitions: Mr Patil told the House that Pakistan was known to have been acquiring [as published] tanks, aircraft, radars, destroyers, submarines different types of guns and other military hardware from a number of countries. It would not be desirable to disclose details of the information available with the Government he added.

Nuclear Know-How: There is no information to suggest that the USA is considering making available nuclear weapons, know-how and resources to make Pakistan a nuclear power, Mr Patil said. He told Mr Madhavroa Scindia in a written reply that India's atomic energy policy was aimed at utilizing energy for peaceful purposes.

Soviet Offer: Details of a Soviet offer to include an Indian astronaut in one of its future space flights had not yet been worked out, Mrs Gandhi informed the House in a written reply. The Prime Minister added that India had indicated its willingness to accept the Soviet offer.

Nuclear Plants: A task force will be sent for techno-economic feasibility studies in West Bengal as soon as the State Government identifies the backward districts for setting up nucleus plants, the Industry Minister, Mr Charanjit Chanana told the House.

Working Children: The Minister of State for Labour, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha told the House that, according to a national sample survey, the number of working children as on March, 1978 was estimated at 16.25 million.

Pak Army: It was being ascertained whether a man arrested at Poonch was a Pakistani spy, the Minister of State for Home, Mr Yogendra Makwana, informed the House. Replying to Mr Ashok Gehlot he said the Government was maintaining constant vigilance on the Rajasthan border to counter anti-national activities.

Constitution: Mr Yogendra Makwana admitted that the translated Hindi version of the Constitution "is not authentic from the point of view of court and law". The modalities for preparing an authoritative text of the Constitution in Hindi and other Indian languages "have been under the consideration of the Government", the Minister added.

Electronics Unit: The Government is yet to take a decision on the location of the proposed defence electronics unit in West Bengal, Mrs Gandhi informed the House in a written answer. Mrs Gandhi told Mrs Geeta Mukherjee that West Bengal had proposed that it should be set up in the Salt Lake area.

Post Offices: There were 25.31 post offices per every lakh of population in the country as per the 1971 census, the Minister of State for Communications Mr Kirti Oraon told Syed Shahabuddin in a written reply.

Coca Cola Complex: Modern Bakeries Limited has offered to buy the Coca Cola Export Corporation concentrate and beverage base manufacturing complex at Faridabad near Delhi Rs 33.50 lakhs, the House was informed. [as published] In a written answer, the Agriculture Minister, Rao Birendra Singh said Modern Bakeries would be able to start its operation in two to three months after its takeover. It was awaiting the acceptance of the offer by the Coca Cola Export Corporation.

Phone Services: Steps have been taken to improve telephone services in Delhi and other parts of the country, Mr Oraon informed the House. The Minister said in a written reply that the steps, as recommended by a task force of senior officers, included gas pressurization of junction and primary cables, protection of cables with half ducts special testing of exchange equipment and special watch over the working of fault repair services.

Hindi Propagation: An outlay of Rs 110 lakhs has been provided in the Sixth Plan for all the organizations and institutions working in non-Hindi speaking States in North India for the propagation of Hindi the Minister for Education, Mr S. B. Chatterjee told Mr J. K. Jain in a written reply.

Beer - In A Name: Mr J. K. Jain suggested during question hour that the name of 1977, a soft drink be changed since it symbolized the electoral victory of the Janata Party in 1977. Rao Birendra Singh, said the name could as well be a reminder of "the miserable period of Janata misrule".

Sugar Output: A significantly higher production of sugar is expected during the 1977-78 season compared with the previous year, Rao Birendra Singh informed the House.

INDIA

PRO-USSR POLICY IMPEDES INDIAN OCEAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 81 p 8

[Article by Asis Kumar Majumdar]

[Text] The Indian Ocean has always deserved an important position in the economic, political and security calculations of New Delhi's foreign policy. India's dominant location in the littoral, with a huge population living on the ocean's shores, demands that her national interest be protected with a viable policy which also effectively subscribes to the Indian Ocean community feeling. The attitude is inseparably connected with New Delhi's views on South-east Asia, and long before Independence, Jawaharlal Nehru rightly emphasized the need for a regional grouping of countries bordering the ocean.

The Indian Ocean's more or less undisturbed state during the 1950s should have allowed India to play a vital role in consolidating opinion among surrounding countries. But the opportunity was not utilized. If India had done so then, the USA and Soviet Union would have found it difficult today to make the region a chessboard of their power games.

Though Nehru did not want the ocean to be dominated by either super Power, yet ironically, it was to "protect" India that the U.S. Seventh Fleet was first ordered to move into the Bay of Bengal in 1962. Before the Fleet could cross the Malacca Straits, however, the conflict eased because of China's unilateral ceasefire and withdrawal, and the ships were recalled.

The Seventh Fleet's official entry into the ocean was in 1963. General Maxwell Taylor, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, announcing at Palam on December 19, 1963, that the task force might comprise an aircraft carrier, two or three destroyers and an oil tanker. On the same day Nehru told the Lok Sabha that "...all that we need say today is that outside the territorial waters of India, the ocean is naturally open to them, as to the naval vessels of any other country".

Objection?

When asked by an M.P. whether the Government would object to the American presence in the Indian Ocean, Nehru replied, "If the thing is obviously to our detriment, we protest. If it is not, we do not." He also said, "It is just possible to impress the countries round about that they are there. The Indian Ocean is a

...we cannot say anybody cannot go round all the area." This was Nehru's way of distracting attention from the potential danger from the American naval presence. He went so far as to say that no particular concern need be felt by South-east Asian countries as most of them were more or less allied to the USA.

Nehru's meeting with Nehru, only two days before the Seventh Fleet arrived in the Indian Ocean, had encouraged speculation about New Delhi's tacit support for the move in return for the U.S. offer of an air umbrella. At the height of such speculation, Nehru stated in the Rajya Sabha, "It would be quite wrong to suggest that a cruise by a few U.S. naval vessels in the Indian Ocean either threatens our freedom or imperils our policy of non-alignment." The statement only strengthened the idea that India indirectly encouraged U.S. designs in the region. Cold War tensions had not been very noticeable in this region until the Seventh Fleet's advent.

The littoral States knew that since 1965 India had made a tremendous effort to increase her naval capacity with Soviet help, but they did not necessarily believe that New Delhi's efforts to gain acceptance of the USSR as an Asian Power was intended to bring the Soviet navy into the ocean. Nor could India's dependence on Moscow for naval strengthening be condemned even by the West, since India had to turn to the USSR only after failing to obtain equipment from the USA and the UK. The Soviet Union has always been generous to us in this respect, possibly with an eye to its own smooth access to the Indian Ocean.

Indian policy after 1969 was based on the belief that in spite of their pronounced anti-communism, Malaysia, Singapore and even Thailand welcomed the Soviet Union's growing interest in the region as a balancing element. But, in fact, the establishment of British and American bases, and the increased Soviet presence, were viewed with concern by South-east Asia which feared that the equilibrium might be disturbed. Indonesia proposed defence cooperation among India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in 1969, but New Delhi rejected the idea mainly because it was directed against increasing Soviet activity without affecting the Anglo-U.S. position. India told Indonesia that safety lay in a joint guarantee by the super powers neutralizing the Indian Ocean.

The implications of the 1971 Indo-Soviet treaty also evoked considerable concern at home and abroad. Mr Samar Guha feared that the treaty would give scope for India to extend its Indian Ocean bases; Mr Karpuri Thakur and Mr Madhu Singh argued that the ocean would be drawn into Soviet-U.S. conflict. Adverse reactions in South-east Asia were also fuelled by fears of super Power rivalry. It was pointed out that Moscow's true intentions would be reflected in the Indo-Soviet discussions on "mutual defence" that would follow the treaty. Anxiety was also fuelled by reports that Soviet ships were only three days behind the U.S. aircraft carrier, Enterprise, which entered the Bay of Bengal during the Bangladesh war. Since the Western warnings about Moscow's growing naval power has influenced littoral governments which are also worried about an extensive new Soviet espionage network in the region.

...hoped that the end of the Vietnam war would leave them free to develop their economy, but the Western Powers warned them in 1971

that in assisting erstwhile East Pakistan to achieve independence, India was playing into the hands of the USSR which sought an outlet to the ocean, and might see Cox's Bazar, near Chittagong, as a potential naval base. Mrs Gandhi sharply rejected the notion, and, in fact, similar allegations were made against the USA. The navies of both Powers provided psychological support to the two adversaries, but though the Enterprise left the Bay within a few days, Soviet ships lingered on in the name of clearing mines and salvaging wreckage.

In spite of this evidence, and though Moscow is as involved as Washington in maritime rivalry, Indian leaders tend to turn a blind eye to Soviet activities. This apparent partisanship promoted Mr Malcolm Fraser, Australian Prime Minister, to say, "The politics of India to us seems to some extent unreal. They appear to espouse certain views and certain policies. They condemn the United States in her effort to build a support base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, necessary to preserve balance, but they do not condemn the build-up of the Soviet Union in the Indian Ocean." To emphasize the danger of the Soviet presence, he added, "Since 1968, it is the Soviet Union that has built up forces there. They have three sailing days to every sailing day of the United States in the Indian Ocean." Singapore's Mr Lee Kuan Yew is even more critical.

Expectations that New Delhi's policy would change under the Janata regime did not come true, and Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid stress on the necessity for discussions among the super Powers to convert the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. Seeing no sense in India calling a conference of littoral States when the U.N. was already working on the same theme, he suggested that discussions would not be fruitful until major Powers participated in talks. Mr Vajpayee's statement revealed that India was still reluctant to take the lead, and in February, 1979, he claimed that New Delhi had not received any information indicating an abnormal increase in the U.S. presence in the ocean. At the non-aligned countries' Colombo meeting in 1979, Mr Vajpayee placed his hopes on a U.S.-Soviet dialogue.

A viable policy will elude India and the South-east Asian countries until they can cultivate a vigorous and true sense of Indian Ocean community. But the return of Mrs Gandhi to power, and so of the pro-Soviet tilt in India's foreign policy, has narrowed down the possibility of concerted action by the littoral nations. Differences between New Delhi and other regional governments, notably those in ASEAN, in Afghanistan and Kampuchea have already adversely affected hopes of a common approach to super Power involvement in the region. This was clearly revealed at the non-aligned conference in New Delhi in February. While India and a few other countries expressed concern over U.S. military bases, particularly in Diego Garcia, most delegates were unwilling to mention the American position without also mentioning the facilities enjoyed by the Soviet Union. Hence deletion of any reference to Diego Garcia in the final resolution.

IMPLICATIONS

Partly because of this ambivalence, prevailing conditions offer a better opportunity to China than to India to play a dynamic role in the ocean. Though China declared in 1973 that the India Ocean belonged to the countries and peoples of the region, it has encouraged the littoral nations to assert claims to 200-mile continental shelves, and to deny the international status of straits and waterways. Chinese insist on the principle that national rights should be restricted where

compromised shelves overlap, a view that will certainly find support from countries which are willing to come to terms among themselves to gain freedom from the naval dominance of super Power rivalry. Even if China does not become a major maritime power, it might still be able to influence events in the region by sponsoring local conflicts and playing on regional fears. But Beijing's eagerness to unite with Washington to oppose Moscow suggests that the Chinese will try to fish in troubled political waters.

Any contradiction in China's policy might open avenues for India to assume a more significant role in Indian Ocean politics if only New Delhi's foreign policy were not bound to tilt towards the Soviet Union. This could be an opportune moment for India and South-east Asia unitedly to resist super Power pressure, to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace in the sense that it will remain open to the merchant ships of all nations only for innocent passage. This, after all, is the Malaysian and Indonesian view of the Malacca Straits. Such a concept would protect oil routes and guarantee the genuine economic interests of the USA and USSR. But India will not be able to take a decisive stand to promote what may be called the Indian Ocean Freedom Movement, if it remains isolated from the rest of South and South-east Asia on account of New Delhi's pro-Soviet views on Afghanistan and Cambodia.

USCIB 42000770

EDITORIAL DEPLORES COMMUNALISM IN BIHAR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 81 p 8

[Text] It is extraordinary that the formidable security measures apparently taken by the Bihar Government seemed to have had so little impact on the rioting that accounted for at least 49 deaths by Tuesday night. Many more were injured and thousands driven from their homes, in addition to widespread looting, arson and other forms of destructiveness. One explanation could be that precautions came too late to stem the violence; another is the suspicion that the effectiveness of Bihar's law-enforcement machinery is hampered by partisan sympathies. Whatever the cause, the regularity with which such disturbances erupt, and the scale of the present conflict, amount to a grave indictment of Dr Jagannath Mishra's administration. Conditions certainly have not improved since the Janata regime when Mrs Gandhi seldom lost an opportunity of accusing the authorities of turning a blind eye to communal violence.

Little is to be gained by trying now to determine precisely what led to the conflagration. A dispute over a graveyard in Nalanda district, near which an image had been installed, may have exacerbated tension. The toddy shop brawl in Biharsharif, a town that long ago acquired notoriety for murderous communalism, obviously aggravated feelings. An avoidable altercation between two Patna students and the driver of a tempo extended the battleground, bringing others into the fray. But the point is that though deplorable in themselves, neither individually, nor collectively, would these incidents have provoked such extensive vandalism if the climate had not already been explosive. There have been unconfirmed rumours of RSS activity, and rather more credible reports of long-term planning not necessarily for any specific event but as a contingency. Bihar's malaise lies in the state of mind that induces people to think on these lines.

The basis of communalism is an ancient complaint, but it feeds in Bihar on explicit and implicit encouragement of all forms of caste and group loyalty. If politicians and civil servants unabashedly favour people who belong to their own sects, villagers too will try to reinforce traditional identities and the prejudices that sustain them. In a sense, renewed hostility between Hindus and Muslims is not wholly unrelated to the widening gulf that separates Brahmins, Bhumihars, Kayasthas, Rajwade castes, Muslims and Adivasis. This withdrawal into isolated camps at the popular level is matched by deteriorating confidence in the administrative apparatus, encouraged by grim tales of what goes on in Bihar's jails and by persistent allegations of police brutality. Such strife may not be the exclusive hallmark of Congress-ruled States, as the CPI(M) says, but the Centre would probably have taken a far more serious view of this threat to integration if some other party had been in power.

REASON FOR TURNING TO ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GIVEN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 81 p 8

[Editorial]

First: Mr Venkataraman's announcement at the Honolulu meeting of the Asian Development Bank that India will seek a \$2,000 million loan from the Bank (probably some time after 1983) is the first occasion in 15 years when this country has shown a direct interest in drawing on the assistance provided by this regional financial institution. Hitherto, India's need of aid have been well looked after by the World Bank and the Consortium. There is now considerable uncertainty about replenishment of the lendable resources of all international financial institutions (in particular of IDA) and the extent to which China's entry into these bodies will affect the existing shares of the others. It is believed that India may be able to secure only a fifth of IDA's additional resources instead of two-fifths as earlier expected. Support for India's balance of payments in the coming years has, therefore, to be sought from many quarters, such as the IMF (with which they have recently been detailed discussions), [as published] the O.E.C countries and international commercial banking institutions.

The latest approach to the ADP is part of this long-term planning, and it was not proper for the Government to refrain from cutting into the limited resources available in the special fund for soft loans to the poorer countries in the Asian region and opting to borrow from the Bank's ordinary capital resources at 9.25 per cent. This may still be more favourable than loans from international commercial banks or IMF credits on the strict conditions it imposes for drawings above certain limits. Not the least of the considerations may be the possibility of the Bank being one of the institutions through which petrodollars may be increasingly recycled in future years.

Second: Even this direct interest created by the oil price situation, it was time when India associated itself more closely with the development activities in the region. After Japan and the USA, India has held the third largest capital stock in the ADB and was well represented on its Board by one Executive Director and one of the five Vice-Presidents. Japan has always nominated the President and has carefully piloted the Bank on its own guidelines for project evaluation and loans; India, it was believed, was linked to its own exports of machinery and technical services. It is only in the last three years that there has been an increase in India's exports to meet the ADB's procurement to about \$111.5 million, and it is not clear all that India could offer in terms of project equipment and services. It is only by getting more closely involved with the Bank's activities that this country's interests can be safeguarded in securing a legitimate share of export opportunities.

WEST BENGAL OPPOSITION FORGES UNITED FRONT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 81 p 4

[Text] Calcutta, May 7--At a joint convention the Congress-U Janata Party and the Muslim League in West Bengal decided to contest the coming municipal elections unitedly against the CPM and their allies.

The convention was presided over by Mr P C Sen and Miss Abha Maity, State Janata Party president. Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, State PCC-U president and A K M Hasanuzzaman, MLA were among the speakers.

In a resolution adopted at the convention the speakers charged that the CPM after assuming power in the State superseded the municipal boards and appointed administrators who were nominees of the Front partners.

It also said that the municipalities, being unable to raise resources, were forced to become dependent on the ruling party.

The resolution therefore said that the municipalities should be independent to take part in commercial activities, so that their resources could be adequate.

The speakers said that the Congress-I, by boycotting the elections provided the CPM with the opportunity to win many seats uncontested. This step was harmful, they said.

Mr Das Munshi in his speech made the serious allegation that on 30 March order for firing on the Congress I demonstration was not given by any top police officer but by some constables belonging to the CPM-led Non-Gazetted Police Karmachari Samity. A judicial inquiry into the incident would have revealed the entire story, he added.

The speakers also sounded the warning that because of manipulations, electoral rolls were heavily weighted in favour of the Left Front.

Despite these handicaps, they said they would contest the elections in order to mobilise public opinion against all such malpractices.

(C-11-57)

QATAR'S NEW IMMIGRATION LAW AFFECTS INDIAN WORKERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 81 p 3

[Text] Doha (Qatar). May 7 (PTI).

Qatar's new immigration law, approved by the Emir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al-Thani, would affect at least 5,000 foreign workers, mostly Indians, who might face jail, fine up to Rs 12,000 and deportation.

According to Labour Ministry sources, these workers have not regularised their work permits and sponsorship papers despite repeated warnings and three reprieves since the Government has enforced the labour laws strictly on 8 May last year.

The dead-line to correct the sponsorship procedures ended on 7 December.

Later, the 30-member advisory council passed its recommendations to amend certain articles of the immigration law of 1963 relating to the entry and re-entry of expatriate workers into Qatar.

According to the amendments approved by the Emir a foreign worker must leave the country after his contract is over and he can not come back to the country for another job within two years. The time limit was six months until the implementation of the new law.

The law also stipulates that in the event of a foreign worker found to be responsible for violating the local laws of the country, he will be repatriated and will not be allowed to re-enter the country for a period of three years. However, the Labour Ministry can waive these procedures in the interest of the nation in the event of dire necessity.

The new law also provides some relaxation as to the change of sponsorship, which was strictly forbidden according to the old law.

INDIA

SANGMA REPLACES MEGHALAYA CHIEF MINISTER LYNGDOH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 81 p 1

[Text] Shillong, May 7 (UNI).

Meghalaya Chief Minister B B Lyngdoh today laid down office in favour of Captain Williamson Sangma, ending a two-year experimental leadership and beginning a 'unique' chapter in Indian politics of sharing office during a single term of the legislature.

Mr Lyngdoh submitted the resignation of his Council of Ministers to Governor L P Singh this afternoon to pave the way for the swearing-in of a new Ministry headed by Captain Sangma, due at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Another new feature of the experiment, started on 17 April 1979 with the formation of the United Meghalaya Parliamentary Democratic Forum (UMPDF), is likely to be the introduction of two Deputy Chief Ministers under Captain Sangma.

Mr Lyngdoh's resignation followed the unanimous election of Captain Sangma to the leadership of the 44-member, four party forum.

The election was facilitated by Mr Lyngdoh's resignation on 1 May from the forum's leadership in honour of the "solemn agreement" made at the time of its formation.

Capt Sangma is the leader of the 15-member Cong-I group, a forum partner, in the 60-member Assembly.

Capt Sangma's name was proposed by Mr Lyngdoh, leader of his own faction of the All Party Hill Leaders Conference (APHLC) and seconded by Mr S D Khongwar, leader of the Hill State Peoples Democratic Party (HSPDP).

Mr Lyngdoh was sworn in Chief Minister on 7 May 1979.

Immediately after submitting his Ministry's resignation, the outgoing Chief Minister told newsmen that since the experiment had succeeded, they had decided to continue it in future also.

The arrangement had helped not only the leaders to unite but also to bring about unity among different sections of the people living in the State, he added.

Mr Lyngdoh said the spirit behind the experiment was desirable not only in Meghalaya but also in the rest of the troubled north-eastern region to bring about unity, understanding, peace and harmony.

The UMPDE Government comprises the Cong-I (15 members), the APHLC (14), the Hill State Peoples Democratic Party (HSPDP) (14) and the Jaintia National Union (1).

CSO: 4220/7715

INDIA

BRIEFS

DEFENSE TEAM TO FRG--New Delhi, May 5. A high-level defence team has left for West Germany to discuss the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries on the sale of two submarines to India and eventual production of another two here. The team includes Mr. S. K. Bhatnagar, Additional Secretary in the Defence Ministry, Vice Admiral M. R. Schunker, and senior officials of the Ministries of Finance and Law.--UNI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 6 May 81 p 16]

NAXALITE LEADER PAROLED--New Delhi, May 6.--The Supreme Court today directed the Andhra Pradesh Government to release at once on parole the ailing Naxalite leader Naga Bhushanam Patnaik, who is being treated at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences. The order said that the release on parole was unconditional because the petitioner was seriously ill. Further, the order said, the State Government should consider the desirability of releasing Patnaik (finally?) as also the other five petitioners as soon as possible since they had done more than 11 years in jail. With these observations, the court disposed of the special leave petition submitted on behalf of the six petitioners by Mr V. M. Tarkunde. The order said the petitioners as well as the State were at liberty to move the court, if necessary. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 81 p 1]

CSO: 4220;7709/7712

MURTAZA BHUTTO'S PLANS FROM EXILE

KARACHI JANG in Urdu 30 Mar 81 p 3

[Editorial: "The Dream of Coronation - His Concept of Pakistan"]

[Text:] According to a report published in JANG, Mir Murtaza Bhutto, son of the former President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (who was executed by the present Pakistani regime in 1979), said in a radio interview in Czechoslovakia, a member of the Warsaw Pact, that if his mother, Nusrat Bhutto, and his two sisters, Benazir and Sanam, were not living in Pakistan at this time, he would burn down everything from Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore to the mausoleum of Quaide Azam Jinnah in Karachi. He said he had told his mother and sisters to escape from Pakistan and he hoped that they will leave the country at the first available chance. After that, he said, he would be able to accomplish his mission without any worry or fear of reprisals. Mr Murtaza Bhutto further stated that all leaders and workers of the banned People's Party who will escape from Pakistan and will want to work with him will be welcomed; they will be looked after, their needs will be provided for and they will not be left alone to fend for themselves. In answer to a question, he said it made no difference whether the leadership of the party stayed in the hands of his mother, any of the sisters, or in his hands. At the proper moment, his mother or sisters will relinquish the reins of leadership to him.

This interview should serve as an eye-opener for every Pakistani, but more particularly for those in the People's Party who joined or associated with the party in good faith, never suspecting that their alliance with PPP could cost them any patriotism. Mr Bhutto's statement that if his mother and sisters were not in Pakistan, he would destroy everything from Minar-e-Pakistan to the mausoleum of Jinnah truly reveals the thinking of the Bhutto family. To the members of that family, what is sacred is their own safety, their own power and their own authority. If the family security or power is in danger, nothing else in Pakistan is worth protecting either. For Murtaza Bhutto, only three lives matter - those of his mother and two sisters; no fourth Pakistani life is of any interest to him. Except for his own two sisters, for him no other girl in Pakistan has sisterly status; no woman except his own mother can claim motherly dignity. The two pillars of Pakistani soil mentioned by Mr Bhutto in reality represent the very concept of Pakistan. It is because of Pakistan that Minar-e-Pakistan and the Quaide Azam Jinnah have meaning; they are the symbols of the existence and significance of Pakistan. As markers for the area of destruction, they indicate that Murtaza Bhutto hates in fact the existence of Pakistan, because it is this existence which is in the way of his hereditary power. The concept behind Pakistan

and the precepts outlined by the Quaide Azam amount to an open challenge to all hereditary rule and personal or family nobility.

For understanding the thinking of the Bhutto family, we should keep in mind that all members of the family, the parents, son and the two daughters, spent most of their lives outside Pakistan. Murtaza, as soon as he was of age, found himself in Europe and America for schooling. The Western culture, values, ways of living, thought and speech are near and dear to him and mean more than the culture, way of life and languages of this country. In his education and training, he did not get any introduction to the spirituality of Sindhi Sufi poet Shah Latif Bhatai or to the humanitarianism of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz, nor did he get acquainted with post-philosopher Iqbal's new Islam-based ideology. He never lived among Pakistanis as a fellow countryman and he never established a relationship with them based on mutual friendship and equal status. After attaining adulthood in Europe and America, he made visits to Pakistan as the only and beloved son of a rich, landowning family. On those visits, the only people that he saw in his house, whether it was at 70 Clifton, Karachi, in Larkana, Nowdero or Islamabad, were his servants, hired hands and subordinates. The cultured and educated people with whom he had contact on such visits seemed to suggest to him that for the Bhutto family, Pakistani politics offered great opportunities. Murtaza Bhutto, therefore, gradually became convinced that he was the nawab of the whole state known as Pakistan. The blind ambition and power of the father of these crazy children gave them the impression that everything in Pakistan related to the Bhutto family and that Pakistan had no relevance outside the sphere of the Bhutto clan. Love of one's country has to take roots in one's heart, and it takes roots only when one lives in the country, absorbs its culture, system, values and ways of life, so that one feels a throbbing inside even at the smell of the country's dust. Those who have not had such a chance cannot bring those feelings from the outside. Patriotism and sincere love of one's nation are not commodities which can be bought from the market, rather they are priceless feelings which are ingrained in one's conscience. As far as the conscience of the Western-educated children of the Bhutto family goes, it itself is alien and a stranger to our environment.

Murtaza Bhutto has openly stated that he has instructed his mother and sisters to leave Pakistan. He hopes that the three of them will get out of the country as soon as they can. After that, he has said, he will be able to work for his mission freely and without hesitation. What mission? That of burning down everything from Minar-e-Pakistan to the Mausoleum of Jinnah? We believe that this statement of Murtaza Bhutto is reason enough for us to keep his mother and sisters under detention in Pakistan for life. If their presence in Pakistan, according to Murtaza, is a guarantee for the safety of all Pakistanis, why shouldn't we hold them in our hands like the parrots whom the giants in the fables held alive under their protection and ever watchful eyes for the sake of their own lives?

Murtaza Bhutto has also laid out the terms of the bargain which he has in mind for People's Party members. He has said that those PPP leaders and workers who will escape from Pakistan and work with him (in destroying everything from one end of Pakistan to the other, we suppose) will be looked after and will not be left alone to fend for themselves at any time. In other words, they will be paid a good price for their treason. But Murtaza has also stated in categorical terms that this price will not include a share in the party leadership, which will stay in the hands of his mother or any of the two sisters and will pass into his hands

at the proper time. This means that PPP workers should risk their lives, leave their country, put their next of kin in danger and forsake all other personal interests, but they should always keep in mind that at no time will there be a democratic platform in the party and at no time will they be given a chance to choose their leader from among themselves. Their status will be merely that of menial workers serving a rich family and the reins of leadership will go straight from the mother to the son. It is a pity that the concept of Pakistan in the mind of this egomaniac prince now amounts to little more than a dream of his own coronation.

9412

CSO: 4203/62

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

PIA STAFF EMPLOYEES DISAPPEAR--Karachi, March 30 (Report by Qaisar Mahmud)--In spite of the glaring fact that many PIA employees suddenly disappeared, the authorities investigating the recent hijacking of the PIA plane have not confronted the issue and are engaged in mere guesswork. Up to this point, only circumstantial evidence has been gathered regarding the plot that ended in the hijacking of the Boeing 720 on 2 March. PIA officials have testified that at both times, when the DC 10 was set on fire on 2 February and when the Boeing 720 was hijacked, PIA staff on duty was instructed not to leave their stations without permission. But many important staff members have disappeared without a trace and abandoned their jobs. These members belonged to a union which Begum Bhutto, wife of the former President Z.A. Bhutto, used to call her own. It has been learned that these PIA employees have illegally gone abroad, and that several others belonging to the same union are planning to escape to other countries quietly. This particular union was formed with the backing of the banned People's Party. A high government official has meanwhile admitted that the investigation of the incident has not gone much further than taking the statements of former hostages, and that PIA employees and other persons who were involved in the plot have not as yet been identified. It should be pointed out that three separate government agencies are involved in the investigation at the present time. [Text] [Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 31 Mar 81 pp 3, 6] 9612

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